

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Hisao Kimura

Hisao Kimura was born in Waimea on the Big Island, February 29, 1912. His official birthdate, however, is recorded as January 15, 1913.

He is the fifth of eight children born to Masajiro and Hisamu Kimura. He attended Waimea Public School and graduated from Hilo High School in 1931.

He then began his long career with Parker Ranch, first as a dairy worker, which he worked at for five years, and later as a carpenter's helper and fence worker, a mechanic's helper, and truck driver. He worked as a water pump worker during the war years and supplemented his income by growing celery and marketing his produce through the newly formed farmer's co-op. He was part of an informal home guard formed by Parker Ranch, but spent only one night on lookout a few days after the war broke out.

In 1960 he became the head agronomist in charge of the Parker Ranch Pu'u'ōpelu Tree Nursery. He retired in 1978.

He married Elizabeth Lindsey—his second marriage—in June 1941. He has two daughters and three sons.

Tape Nos. 22-84-1-93 and 22-85-1-93

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Hisao Kimura (HK)

May 20, 1993

Waimea, Hawai'i

BY: Holly Yamada (HY)

HY: This is an interview with Hisao Kimura at his home in Waimea, on the Big Island, May 20, 1993. The interviewer is Holly Yamada.

Okay, let's start with when you were born.

HK: When I. . . .

HY: When were you born?

HK: I was born in Waimea. The year is 1912, February 29. However, as time went on we had to change our birthday. So my present birthday has changed to January 15, 1913.

HY: Now, why is that?

HK: When we had to expatriate our Japanese citizenship, our parents had to get witnesses because we were not registered with the [territorial] board of health. At that time no newborn child had been monitored or registered with the board of health. And most of the childbirth are being done by, what do you call, by . . .

HY: Midwife?

HK: Midwife, yes. Midwife did all the work and see. . . . And so when they had to investigate when my right birthday was, they try to investigate the Japanese immigrant office [Japanese Consulate] and it wasn't there. The record wasn't there. So now they had to get our neighbors, witnesses, come in and say when was I born. So they finally settled one year later, January 15, 1913, so I lost one year. [HK elaborates further in session 3.]

HY: Okay. Can you describe the house that you lived in?

HK: Yes. I was born in---by the way, my parents [were Masajiro Kimura and Hisamu (nee Mitsuda)] worked for Parker Ranch. [HK's father worked for Parker Ranch, his mother did not.] My older brother [Yutaka Kimura] worked for Parker Ranch [as a dairyman and cowboy] and we did have a Parker Ranch home, an employee home rather. And I was born in that house and then when I begin to go to school at about age six years old, my father went

into part-time farming as well as work for Parker Ranch [as a handyman]. So he went into farming area and we lived in an unpainted house, farmhouse. And there I grew up to about age of nine years old. And then we went back to the same Parker Ranch home again, back again, and then live there until I was the age of eighteen. Yeah.

HY: Did your father lease land from Parker Ranch?

HK: My father had to lease that farmland from another farmer.

HY: From another farmer.

HK: Not necessarily from Parker Ranch.

HY: And how did that farmer acquire his land?

HK: The farm in that particular time, which we were still under the possession of the United States as a territory. The farmland was owned by the Hawaiians and the Japanese immigrants came in from Japan had a leasehold over the land. And my father (as an alien) had part of the sublease from another farmer.

HY: It was a sublease?

HK: Yes.

HY: I see. Can you describe the Parker Ranch employee home that you lived in?

HK: Parker Ranch employee home is quite interesting because of the. . . . We lived by wood stove. The kerosene stove was not even known at that time. Every home had a wooden stove. And till today I won't forget that because the kitchen (walls are) usually black (caused by) the smoke, eh. We had a kitchen and then we had just one bedroom. One little room with--- Japanese style is you have a mat and then you sleep on the floor. There's no beds, just sleep on the floor. And my father---my family, my father raised nine children. Actually ten, but we had a childbirth---death at childbirth. So we had ten, but nine living children.

HY: And you are---in the birth order you're in the middle?

HK: Yeah, I'm number six in the family.

HY: Number six?

HK: Yeah, number six, yeah. So a lot of hand-me-downs (chuckles) going down the line.

HY: What can you tell me about day-to-day life?

HK: During?

HY: On Parker Ranch. Your daily life at home with your family? With all those kids and . . .

HK: Yes. Parker Ranch, at that particular time, Parker Ranch was the only employer in this

community. I believe at that time they had close to 200 employees, the biggest employer. And we had four general stores. And living our daily life those days was quite primitive way, you know. Recreationalwise it was just making your own games, so there's no TV, no radio, no nothing. But school [Waimea Public School] was somewhat the area that we looked forward to go to school because this the only area that you meet your fellow, what do you call? Friends.

HY: Peers?

HK: Yeah, yeah, and then get together there. And we had up to sixth grade at that time. The life, as a whole, we live a very poor life, in fact. This is the reason my father went into part-time farming just to raise some vegetables to feed us. And then fortunately, Parker Ranch is a ranch even up-to-date. They were more like a paternalistic type of ranch that took care of the family, and every detail was looked into. The welfare of the family was very important to the employer. And they took care to even educate their children. So we had free meat and (that was like salvation, a lifeline of) our livelihood. To get the free meat was very important because that's the means of having food in the home. (Because of this we were able to help) our (farm) neighbors. The neighbor was the farmer, and we used to share our meat with the farmers because the farmers were in much worse condition than we were. So we used to share our meat to them, and ranch life was very, very difficult because everything was on foot. You go to work, (daily walk) one mile from home to the Parker Ranch office (to report, and walk back when the day is over). And as far as working conditions on the ranch, was not that primitive. They had the equipment and cars, so not bad. But the thing is to go---(travel) between home and employer's office is one mile away. Yeah, in all kinds of weather you had to go through.

HY: Did you work as a child?

HK: We didn't have any child-labor law those days, and I was fortunate to finish Waimea [Public] School in the sixth grade and then I continued on to school in Hilo. So when I got out from Hilo, Hilo High School, I was eighteen years old. So I began working, a full-time employee at Parker Ranch at the age of eighteen. Yeah. In spite of that I spent forty-six years on the ranch.

HY: When you were a kid, did you help your siblings or your parents?

HK: Yes. While we had---our heritage is that whatever you earn, you know, it goes to the parents. That's just the way we worked during that time. We try to help the parents and the parents will allocate so much for you to spend. Yeah.

HY: How were you able to earn money before you were eighteen?

HK: Before I was eighteen I was---my family was quite fortunate in the sense where my oldest brother [Masao Kimura] tried to run away from home to go to Hilo (for his education). In fact, he was trying to reach Hilo, go to Hilo on foot. And my father had to get on horseback and get after him and pick him up on the way while he was on his way to Hilo. Anyway, he, my father, was able to get acquainted with the minister in Hilo, a Christian.

HY: Do you remember his name?

HK: Yes. Reverend Kwan Higuchi. Kwan Higuchi. He's Japanese, what do you might call, (citizen) of Japan and ordained Christian minister. And he had a church in Hilo called the [Hilo] Japanese Christian Church [presently Church of the Holy Cross of Hilo]. And fortunately he helped my parents, my father, to take my oldest brother in. And to take care of him and give him room and board, although he had to do a little work at the dormitory. The church had a dormitory both for students and working people. And he set a good example for us and we were all able to follow through the same way that he went to school, yeah.

HY: So when you went to Hilo High School you stayed in a dorm then?

HK: I stayed in the dorm.

HY: And you worked for the reverend?

HK: Yes. Yes. And I work at the church doing odds and ends (for) free room and board.

HY: What kinds of stuff would you do?

HK: Well, everyday's chore is to help Mrs. Higuchi in the kitchen. Wash dishes, set up the table, and then take care of the yard, mow the yard and so forth. And then they found another job for me, part-time work at another Portuguese Christian Church [Portuguese Evangelical Church] which is right in town, Hilo. I had to take care the yard and I was earning five dollars a month for that. Just to buy my shirt or clothing for school. Then later on I was also moved to another home to keep company with one of the sons. The parents had divorced and then they wanted---the only son in the family needed a playmate. So I was there for one year.

HY: Do you remember his name?

HK: Yeah, Rupert Saiki. Yeah.

HY: Going back a little bit to the Waimea Public School days, what do you remember about your classmates?

HK: Oh, well, what do I remember about my classmates?

HY: Yeah, like were there a lot of classmates in one---is it a one-room school or did you have . . .

HK: (Yes, one classroom for each grade.) I have never been able to adjust myself when I went to Hilo schools because the classes were, they had several classes in one grade level. In Waimea, we had such a small student body, the classes were small. Members in each class were small and then we . . .

HY: How many?

HK: (About fifteen students per class.) And then we---one instructor would take care all of the subjects for the whole day. We don't change classes (and teachers) at all. So you stay in one class all day. And we were very disciplined. Discipline was one of the top priorities in

school.

HY: How would they discipline you?

HK: We had a courtyard in our school with a flagpole (at the center of the yard). And every morning we had to stand at attention in line and face the flagpole, and two students go up and raise the flag and we had to salute to the flag and pledge allegiance to the flag [recite the "Pledge of Allegiance"]. And the phonograph---we have a big phonograph on the porch of the school, the school---the classroom is still there, and they run the "Star-Spangled Banner," yeah. And we all sing "Star-Spangled Banner" and then march into the classroom. And as you march in you had to be very careful not to play in line otherwise you'll get disciplined when you get in the classroom.

HY: What would happen?

HK: Well, I had several times (laughs) spanking with a yardstick.

HY: Oh, yeah.

HK: Yeah. The famous way---not a famous, but a popular way of being spanked by the yardstick is to present your palm open, open your palm to the teacher and she'll slap you with a yardstick. Once the yardstick break on my open palm and just---sliced incision you know, cut over there.

HY: How did you feel about being disciplined like this?

HK: Well, it was quite severe. To me it was very severe because I felt very inferior. Yeah the inferior complex was very much upon me because it seems the teacher was always picking on me and sometimes I can't imagine why. During that time singing was so important. We used to sing a lot and the teacher was very---well, you know, had a good voice and she can sing a lot, too. But if you cannot sing well (with mouth wide open), she'll poke the yardstick right into your mouth and keep it open, you know. And they were very, very strict.

HY: She did this to you?

HK: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And then on the other hand, on the math, whenever you have a math problem, they send you up on the blackboard and then you have to solve the problem. And teacher is right in the back of you to watch whether you know. And if you hesitate and you cannot solve the problem, you know what happens? The teacher will pull your ear, keep pulling your ears to get your assignment done. And sometimes in the back of your ear will just rip, you know. And those are the type of things made me afraid of the teacher. I was very much afraid of every teacher that I went through. And when I entered the Hilo [High] School I felt the same way, (although teachers in high school were different). Yeah, very afraid of teacher. I was shaking sometimes. In fact, particularly in the high school level, when you had to take English and you go on the stage and present a short talk, you know. Today's children is no problem. They'll go up there and talk anything they want. But during our time we were afraid of the whole thing (making mistake and get spanking).

HY: Was that something you could tell your parents?

- HK: My parents knew immediately. When I was about, somewhere about nine, ten years old, eleven, ten years old I refused to go school. I absolutely refused to go school. And if you---any tardy students stay home, we had a, so-called, a jail keeper at our Waimea Police Station. And he goes on a white horse, big white horse, and he (will) come and pick you up.
- HY: The truant officer.
- HK: Yeah. We call him a jail keeper, you know, yeah. Big, big Hawaiian fellow.
- HY: So he came and got you?
- HK: Oh, yeah, yeah. And my mother used to bribe me, giving me a nickel just to go to school to buy something at the store 'cause I just refused to go school. That was in me for a number of years.
- HY: Was that true for your brothers and sister or. . . .
- HK: No, (they did not) have much problem. No, they didn't express their feeling at all in that sense.
- HY: What was the ethnicity of the other students?
- HK: Ethnic?
- HY: What was their racial background?
- HK: Waimea was predominantly Hawaiian and Japanese, yeah. A very---no Filipinos. As far as I know there's no Filipinos. And Portuguese, just a handful of Portuguese. And Chinese maybe, one or two families that's about it. Majority [were] members of the Hawaiian and Japanese community. And so when you go to school your teacher know how to talk Japanese as well. You know, half Japanese, broken Japanese, and try to teach you English by trying to make you understand. Because at home nobody teaching us English. We go to school to learn English.
- HY: Did you go to Japanese[-language] school also?
- HK: Yes, I went to four years of Japanese[-language] school. We had Japanese school at that time and then Japanese school is not a mandatory-type thing. It's not compulsory that you should go. You attend the school after your public school is over. On your way home, you know.
- HY: Did you have the same fear of your Japanese[-language] teachers?
- HK: Japanese teachers, no. I didn't feel that way, no, no, yeah.
- HY: Were they less strict?
- HK: Yeah, very much so.
- HY: What kinds of things would you do for recreation, for play?

HK: Well, those days was (popular)—recreation was playing marble and playing top. You know, we used to spin tops a lot. Fighting. We call it fighting tops with each other, eh. And marble, playing marble. Of course, we used to get spanking in school because our pants got dirty from playing marble on the way to school. The road was all dirt road, all the way. And the teacher used to search our pockets for marbles. Yeah. We didn't have much of a sport like basketball or baseball or whatever, until later years when basketball was introduced (years after my time at Waimea School).

HY: You say your mother would give you a nickel to try and coerce you into going to school. What kind of a reaction did your father have?

HK: I can't recall. I can't recall because he was out early in the morning to go to work. And we never seen him as I left home to go to school. Except my mother was really---I feel sorry for her because I know how hard she tried to make me go to school (laughs). Yeah, it was not that easy.

HY: Who was the disciplinarian in your family?

HK: My father, yes.

HY: Was he strict?

HK: No, my father wasn't that strict. No, he wasn't. He had such a big family and then, you know, this is one of those areas where when you are in a big family, member of a big family, you don't really recall the closeness between yourself and your parents. They didn't have much time with you, more or less. That's the way I look at it. They were so busy working and trying to feed the family. Not much of a home life, children and parents together, yeah.

HY: Now, when you lived in the unpainted house when your father began doing part-time farming, what was that house like besides being unpainted?

HK: I used to like that house. It was more---in a while---in a way it was a . . . It's a farmhouse, we used to call it. . . . Every farmhouse had a room we call corn house, where we store up the corn. And we had chicken(s), and we had pigs, and what have you. So it was much of a---things to be done at home.

HY: Did your father grow corn?

HK: Yeah, yeah. Corn and pumpkin. I don't know why the pumpkin was one of the crops, main crops.

HY: And pigs and chickens?

HK: Pig(s), chicken(s). Chicken was a must. Every home had chickens, yes.

HY: Did he sell his produce to anybody or was it subsistence?

HK: Subsistence type of farming.

HY: It was just for your family?

HK: Yes, yes. Commercial farming was not known too well those days, yes. Shipping, transportation problem was great.

HY: So, getting back to your Hilo High School days when you were living in your dormitory, how was that for you adjusting to being away from your family?

HK: The dormitory life was very enjoyable for me. I mean, that was really a time that I really enjoyed. And you don't see your home too often either once you get into Hilo. Transportation was so poor those days. You come home twice a year, Christmas and summer vacation. And dorm life was very, very interesting to me because we played together and sports. And we live right next to a small little park (named) Lincoln Park. And I never played any particular competitive sports, though, except in the church we had played a lot of ping pong.

HY: Ping pong?

HK: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Those days between churches we used to compete with each other.

HY: What other kinds of sports did you play at Lincoln Park?

HK: Well, I love my baseball. I used to play baseball. And then at high school, on the physical ed [education] period, the physical ed teacher will. . . . I didn't have to take part in any sport. I'm just like taking care of all the various equipment for the sports for the period of one hour, physical ed period. And sometime I have to take out the basketball and be in charge of the basketball and baseball. And I was able to referee and all that in high school.

HY: The baseball?

HK: (No, basketball.)

HY: Is that when you first became interested in baseball?

HK: Baseball, yeah, yeah. (But more so in basketball.) Outdoor court. We didn't have a gym, though. Hilo High School didn't have a gym at the time, you know. When I graduated (in 1931) they built a gym. We missed that. Anyway, so when I came back to Waimea, I started up, I began teaching boys how to play basketball.

HY: Who was on the team?

HK: My local---local boys, (Boy Scouts) from Waimea School.

HY: Oh, I see.

HK: What I did was I . . .

HY: Your former classmates?

HK: Not necessarily. No, no, they were much younger than I am. Junior age, you know. When I

came back from school, A. W. [Alfred Wellington] Carter was the manager and trustee of the ranch, [he] saw that I wanted to get down to Honolulu and find a job there. So he called me in the office and he said, "Young man, you stay right here. And I want you to learn all the job on the ranch and so forth." In the meantime he sent me to Hilo [ca. 1936] for two weeks to learn about Boy Scouts, to organize a troop in Waimea. And these are the boys that I used for my basketball team and baseball team.

HY: How would you characterize A. W. Carter?

HK: A. W. Carter, he's one of the most, I would say, rare person. He's very, very strict, disciplined man. And he's very, very strict. Very stern, but very. . . . He's very stern and yet he was very (kind and caring). People would admire him because once he know you well he'll treat you like his own, as his own son. Yeah, he's---that's A. W., the father to Hartwell Carter. Hartwell was the son that became the manager eventually when the father passed away.

HY: The father passed away in '49, is that right?

HK: [Nineteen] forty---yeah, yeah.

HY: So how would you characterize the difference in their management styles?

HK: A. W. Carter was very forward-looking manager, (and his selective judgement and executive ability are unmatched). He always looked to improve the ranch and Parker Ranch being a cattle ranch, it wasn't enough for him. He diversified the ranch to extend that. We had a dairy, a poultry farm, piggery, sheep industry, and a variety of produce in hay and big cornfield and all that. He was quite an aggressive man and he developed the ranch to the extent it was almost nationally known among the ranchers. Due to the fact that he believed in quality animals. So he had about the largest herd of registered Herefords cattle. And he has hired people to take care of those registered Herefords. And (he) selected one of the most prime land on the Parker Ranch as a registered herd area. And he built a station there and employees live there to take care the animals. And he's, of course, credited to the success of this ranch till today. And things have not been worked out well upon his death. After that, things became---Hartwell Carter took over the management, he was assistant manager while his dad was still living. When he took over the ranch nothing was done, as far as improving the ranch. Even to the extent of improving the employees' homes. So nothing was done in the sense of improvements and so, slowly, the ranch went down to a level where in 1960 they need to borrow money to maintain the ranch. And what happened was that the collateral was such that even the creditor wouldn't advance any money. So they sold a portion of their land. Prime land, mind you, was sold (on option).

HY: Who did they sell it to?

HK: Signal Oil. Signal Oil came around as more like a lifesaver to the ranch where Parker Ranch did not sell the land outright. They made an agreement of sale for twelve years, option sale. And option was given to Signal Oil for twelve years and I don't know what the monetary transaction, but anyway, enough money transpired at that time to operate the ranch for a while. And the twelve years expired in 1972. In 1972, Signal Oil says, "I'm going to buy the land." The option expired so they outright purchased the land, (situated at Waiki'i, [at that

time a] section of Parker Ranch). [HK acquired this information through Parker Ranch manager Gordon Lent. It was reported elsewhere that Signal Oil bought options sold to Christiana Oil, as well as another 14,000 acres in 1967. The sale of various parcels of land were negotiated at different times, this may explain the date discrepancy.]

HY: Who was managing the ranch when that happened?

HK: Hartwell Carter managed the ranch up to 1960 and he retired at that year. And upon his retirement, the assistant manager, Richard Penhallow became the manager. However, his managership was very short-lived. Before the end of the year he resigned. So, we were without a manager. One of the cowboys was assigned to be a temporary manager.

HY: Who was that?

HK: Radcliffe Greenwell.

HY: Radcliffe?

HK: Yeah, Radcliffe Greenwell. And he was assigned as a temporary manager. However, the temporary managership went on almost eight years, eight to nine years [1962–1970]. And in that course of time, the ranch was still steadily going down and deteriorating in many ways. Unfortunately, Richard Smart had to be at home at that time. He decided to come home from New York to stay here. And he---when he came back he had to see all these things. You know, in the worst time of the ranch he came home to stay. He decided to stay and so he found, he immediately found out, of course, that ranch was not making money. So he hired a consulting firm [Rubel-Lent & Associates] from Arizona. How he found out about this consulting firm was due to the fact that ranchers, as a whole, they were not making money. They were on the borderline all the time. And Hana Ranch in Maui had the same problem. So Hana Ranch hired this consulting firm from Arizona. And Richard Smart heard about (them) and invited them over to Parker Ranch and finally was---they made an agreement and they were hired to look into the ranch. That's a three-(month) study. (The) consulting firm asked for three-(month) study and they'll make a report at the end of the three (months). And (upon the completion of) three (months), the consulting firm became the manager of the ranch.

HY: Who was it---was it Hartwell that negotiated originally with Signal Oil?

HK: That's a good---I can't answer that whether it was Hartwell or Radcliffe Greenwell.

HY: When you talk about A. W. Carter you used the term paternalistic earlier.

HK: Yeah.

HY: Did that differ from Hartwell?

HY: Somewhat yes and somewhat no. Almost the same. I would say they carried on the same family type of operation. However, A. W. was somewhat---much more, in a sense, [he] can see the quality of his employees much more readily than the son. The son played quite a bit of favoritism. And then he created, created among the employees people who like to go and make report (upon fellow workers). And he had several reporters that used to go to him. Very

unrealistic when you think about today. Today when you look back you wouldn't believe it. (Example:) Monday morning, Hartwell Carter will call you in the office and he will tell you, "I understand you went to the liquor store this past weekend. And I don't want you to be drinking." So there were watchmen always watching each other, the employees. You know, there were people like that. That was created more by Hartwell Carter. A. W.'s time, nobody would dare do such (a) thing. They wouldn't even attempt to do it. There (is) a big difference there. Hartwell Carter, the weakness was there (lack of executive ability).

HY: How do you think people felt about having people watch and report them?

HK: Well, yeah. Very, very bad. We had (several) incident[s] where—our social life during those days was dancing. Every weekend you have dancing at Parker Ranch Hall or at the courthouse. Courthouse was considered one of the halls. Small, little hall but, to me, was large when I was a little kid. Anyway, that was the social life, dancing. And when you go to dance, sometime you go with coat and tie, you know, very formal. And when you get there, my gosh, you know some of our boys will get a hold of another employee and a fight would start. Normally a fight always starts that way. Because they're blaming each other for tattletaling on each other to the manager, you see. Those things were going quite often.

HY: The people that came out for these dances, was it the whole community or just Parker Ranch employees?

HK: It was whole community as well as neighbor communities used to come. Yeah, we used to get regular dancing friends even from Honoka'a come out. We used to know each other quite well.

HY: Did you have live music?

HK: Yes, live music. And the (musical instrument) was saxophone.

HY: Saxophone.

HK: Yeah. We gotta get saxophone in that (band), yeah.

HY: Any big bands?

HK: Just a small group of. . . .

HY: Combo.

HK: Yeah.

HY: I think I should turn the tape here.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

- HY: Just to go back again, I don't think I followed up on your description of the farmhouse. You said you liked it better. How was it different from the ranch house?
- HK: Well, in one way it was a larger house. And it was easy---accessibility was so good going in and out of the house. It was a low building and other than that I would say, well, it was more spacious of course.
- HY: Was it still a one bedroom?
- HK: Yes, one bedroom.
- HY: So all you folks sleep together?
- HK: Yeah, all sleep on the floor, yes. Then we had a number of peach trees around the house, you know. I have good memories of the place because the time we spent over there was much more closely knitted family-like.
- HY: Did you help with the farming?
- HK: No, not at that age. I was too young on the farm. I know we used to make a lot of Indian hut-like, with the corn stalk, you know. You know where the corn is . . .
- HY: Like tepee?
- HK: Yeah, tepee like that, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And pile it up. And we used to play underneath and my father would go later on and burn 'em.
- HY: Would you play with your brothers and sisters?
- HK: Not much. And we just had a celebration here, older brother [Yutaka], eighty-eight years old. And we all spoke something about him, personal testimony about our own experience with our brother. We never, in our family, not only myself, we all did not have much of a relationship with one another---playing together. Somehow, the reason in back of it is our parents---father had to go out work (early) every day. My older brother had to go work, too. He started work at about the age of twelve on the ranch, mind you. So we didn't have much of a relationship together at home. Except my sister who had passed away, you know. My sister is the fourth one in the family. She was older than us and she used to take care of us, my oldest, do chores.
- HY: So you have memories of her?
- HK: Yeah, we have memories of her. Other than that, we have very faint remembrance of each other.
- HY: Okay, now jumping ahead again to Hilo High School, when you lived in the dorm, who were the other students that lived in the dorm? Were they people from Waimea or all over?
- HK: Who else? My older brother, the brother above me, Kazuo, was at the dorm. So I felt at home, too, because my brother was there. Because we all sleep in one room. And other than

that we had another student who was an orphan and there were. . . . Oh, we had another student from Waimea that was with us at the dorm. (The) son of the Japanese-language schoolteacher here. He was there with us. And other than that there were some workingmen at the dorm and two schoolteachers from Honolulu, intermediate schoolteachers, they were at the dorm also.

HY: Why were they there?

HK: They didn't have any housing so the dorm was available for them.

HY: So was it a fairly small dorm?

HK: No, not that small. Two buildings, upstairs (and) down. And downstairs was used as a church social hall and the other one, downstairs was the dining for the dorm. Kitchen and then dining. And one of the teachers is still in Honolulu. I meet him now and then.

HY: So he's older than you, though?

HK: He's older than me, yes. He was a teacher at the intermediate school and I was a student at Hilo High School.

HY: So after you graduated high school, then you came back?

HK: Nineteen thirty-one is my year that—when I got out from school. And 1929 was the beginning of that big depression. The economic depression started off in 1929, '30, '31, it lasted till about '32, '33 I believe. And of course when I graduated we looked around for work in Hilo, but no job. So, my brother here, Yutaka, says, he was a foreman of the Parker Ranch dairy [New Dairy Pu'ukiconi] and which was located about five miles from this town. And the (transportation) was all on horseback. And he says, "Why don't you come back Waimea and work at the dairy since there's no job for you." Better than not doing anything. So I came back home and work at the dairy for almost five years. And this is the time that Alfred W. Carter sent me back to Hilo to study about Boy Scouts and organize a Boy Scouts troop here.

HY: Can you describe your duties at the dairy?

HK: My dairy job was quite interesting because as I said, A. W. Carter was such a perfectionist, more or less, you know. Everything gotta be number one. Everything gotta be just the way he wants it. And when he started that dairy, he imported all his dairy herd. They're all registered, registered with pedigree. And their pedigree go back about three generation. Every cow has a pedigree and about three generation back. And underneath of that, the productivity of each generation by the amount of gallon of milk the ancestors of the cow have produced. So record of each cow was like a human pedigree. And my brother hate to be taking care of the books, so he gave me the job of staying in the office and keep record of all the registered herd. And every, every (available time) I go and milk cows, too, of course and do the regular chores of the other boys. But I spent part of the time keeping records. And every cow must have a record of gallon[s] of milk [produced].

HY: Where did he get the original dairy cows from?

HK: I wouldn't know where it was. Yeah, I have no idea.

HY: Did he start the dairy? Is that how he. . . .

HK: A. W. started the dairy.

HY: Pu'ukikoni Dairy?

HK: Yeah, Pu'ukikoni Dairy, yes, yes. Interesting. And my brother used to---every calf that's born, immediately we have to put a record on the calf, the date of birth. And then after about three to four weeks, I go out, in the pasture and draw (the) picture of that calf, the markings rather. But it's so easy because the outline of the calf is there. It's a blank outline and on top of that you put the black spot and markings, yeah, yeah. And then with that drawing, you send that as part of the registration of the calf. And we used to only register the heifer calves, female.

HY: Is that a common practice to do a drawing of the . . .

HK: Yeah, I believe so. Because holstein milking cows must have certain type of marking(—standard black and white markings).

HY: Are Hereford beef cattle?

HK: Yeah, Hereford is the beef.

HY: Beef, okay.

HK: Holstein is (for) milk. Guernsey is the same thing, but guernsey I don't know much about because we didn't have any guernseys. But holstein cannot have a (white) face. Totally (white). (Otherwise, the animal is a crossbreed.) Had to get one or two (black) mark.

HY: So you began working at the dairy in kind of the aftermath of the depression?

HK: No, I was . . .

HY: Or you were right in the middle of it.

HK: Right in the middle. I recall as I started to work, two months successive, our payroll was dropped 10 percent because of the depression. And so what happened at the dairy was. . . . My remarks about the dairy was one of the golden years of the youth. We have so many young boys applying job up there because (jobs were scarce). And we had single boys, of course, all single boys. And they came from away. Not necessarily from here, they came from Kona, some of them. Kona had a difficult time, too, the coffee growers.

HY: Any from neighbor islands?

HK: Neighbor islands no, no. Yeah. Mostly from Kona. And as time went on, however, the boys got married and the employer—ranch—built a home for them up there at the dairy. (Came to the time when the) children had to go school. So what happened is that they had to do

something about either relocate the dairy or transfer these married people with children to another position. So they decided to move the dairy down to Waimea. They discontinued the dairy and they moved it down to Waimea. And that was the end of the dairy. Yeah, they were. . . .

HY: Did they change names, then?

HK: Yes. And then that original dairy, there, we had another dairy above and we call it Old Dairy [Paliho'oukapapa Dairy]. The Old Dairy was strictly milking without any registered herd and no record keeping at all. Just milk and then transport the fresh milk on wagon, mind you, all the way down. I would say about four, five miles down to Pu'ukikoni Dairy. And at Pu'ukikoni Dairy—the milk will be going through the milk churner) and get the cream out of that and make butter.

HY: So the Old Dairy was also owned by Parker Ranch?

HK: Parker Ranch. So we had two dairies.

HY: Who did they supply to?

HK: The butter was mainly sold right here in Waimea and where else I wouldn't know. They also make cheese, cheddar cheese, you know(—shipped to Honolulu market).

HY: Where were you living?

HK: We live(d) at the dairy. Yes, we live at. . . . We live(d) at the dairy and it was little over five miles from the main town, here. And it was a lonely life. Very lonely. And whenever you had to come down (to town) for any kind of special event, you had to come down on horse(back) and go back on horseback again that same night. (Dairy work requires) seven days work.

HY: Did you live with the other people that worked at the dairy then? Or did you have your own dwelling?

HK: Yeah, single men's quarters. (We lived together in a cottage.)

HY: Boardinghouse?

HK: Boardinghouse more or less. Yeah, yeah. It was a lonely life because whenever you go to school, you know, you meet your classmates for one thing. When you get out of school and you don't see the classmate at all. And I'm telling you it was lonely in that sense. In fact, I (have) never see(n) my classmate(s) after almost about twenty-five or thirty years later when (I went to my first class) reunion.

HY: How did you feel about A. W. Carter wanting you to go back to Hilo so you could learn about the Boy Scouts?

HK: I was very, very happy. You know, going back to my old school. . . . I was really happy because the reason (Mr. Carter has asked me to start a Boy Scout troop stems from the fact

that I had asked him to be transferred from the dairy to Honolulu—the Hawai'i Meat Company). And he said, "Don't get there. I don't want you to go to Honolulu."

HY: Why was that?

HK: He says, "That's not a place for you. There's a bunch of crooks down there." That's the exact word he used. "There's a bunch of crooks there. Don't get down there, it's dangerous."

HY: Why did you want to go there?

HK: Because I was too lonely up (at the dairy). I wanted to be more active in my work, something of interest to me. That dairy (life) was not the life that I would prefer.

HY: Did you feel like if you had insisted on going to Honolulu, you would have been able to do that? Or was that an option?

HK: (If I had insisted, perhaps, I would be fired, and I would be forced to go to Honolulu on my own.) And then, in fact, after I spoke to him, not too many people would dare go down to his home. A. W. lived (in Waimea). The (ranch) house is still there, they call it the Hale Kea Restaurant [Hartwell's at Hale Kea]. Anyway, he lived there and then I knocked at his door and he (came out) and (as) he saw me, he says, "Young man, what do you want?" He told me, "Come in, come in." And then he (told) me, "Young man sit over there." This is the way he always treat you. "Take a seat." And then he say, "What do you want?"

So I told him.

"Don't ever get to Honolulu, there's a lot of crooks down there. It's not a place to go."

And when---ever since then he call me back once to go into Boy Scout because he's a great believer in Boy Scouts, you know. Boy Scouts and baseball. And then he asked me to go to---at least two weeks in Hilo. When I went to Hilo to learn about Boy Scouts, a scout executive says, "Shee, we don't know what to do with you. You the first man we have to teach about Boy Scouts and we never had this kind of experience before. Anyway, take home all these books and read it. And the next morning you show up and we'll tell you what to do." And the next morning (as I entered) the office and the scout executive says, "Do you know where Waiakea Waena School is?"

I say, "Yeah."

"Go over there and there's a Boy Scout troop and you go and conduct a meeting there."

At school hour, mind you, we used to have Boy Scout meetings at public school those days. Amazing. You can't do that today. I wish we had it. I wish we had that kind of program in school today with the Boy Scouts program is a wonderful program for boys. When I came back and organized a troop in Waimea, A. W. told me, "Young man, I want to have the best troop on this island. Remember that," he says. He said, "I'll give you all the help you need. I want the best troop." So the first meeting I conducted I asked Mr. Carter, and in fact, he asked me, "I want to go to the meeting." So I call the boys in, you know those days Boy Scouts was just like an army style: "Fall in line." "Stand at attention." "Right dress." And so

forth and, "Right face." And then, "At ease." And then, "Mr. Carter, here, would like to speak to you boys."

The first thing Mr. Carter told the boys is, "Young boys, I want you folks to remember when the scoutmaster set the time, you got to be on time. Always remember to be on time."

And not too long ago I had a dinner, lunch with one of our former scout. He's an ROTC [Reserve Officer Training Corps] instructor in the Mainland and he's a retired teacher now. He came back and he says, "You know what, I had the best ROTC. You know why? I taught my boys be on time." (Chuckles) You see, he never forgot that. Yeah. A.W. was that way.

And then after a while he [A.W.] saw me coming down (from the dairy, which is five miles away) on horseback to conduct meetings every week at the Parker Ranch Hall. And I believe he felt sorry for me, and he called me in the office one day and he says, "I don't think it's right for you to come down every (week for your) scout meetings on horseback. So I'm gonna move you down to the main station here. I want you to work down here (at the main station) and I'm gonna put you everywhere on the ranch. And I want you to learn." So the first job I had was what we call the plaster gang. [The plaster gang did jobs such as mending fences and cleaning pipelines, jobs related to plastering or mending.] This man [the foreman] is Sonny Lindsey, his name. He has all boys, young boys, all those that didn't continue on to school, probably about seventeen-, eighteen-year-old youngsters. He had about twelve boys in his gang.

HY: Plaster gang?

HK: Plaster gang we used to call 'em. And he call the foreman in the office. Both of us, both of us together. He tells, "Sonny Lindsey, you know this young man?"

"Yeah." He said, "Yeah."

"Well, he's going to work with you tomorrow and I want you to teach him all what you know."

That created a commotion. I went to work the following day and the whole gang felt that I'm gonna take that man's job. Everybody suspected that I'm gonna take his job. That made me feel really bad, very bad. But knowing the fact that I'm not going to stay with this group too long, you know.

HY: Is Sonny Lindsey related to your wife's family?

HK: Yes, related, yeah, yeah.

HY: How is he related?

HK: They're cousins.

HY: So he felt threatened?

HK: Threatened, yes, yes. You know he wanted to get it out of my own. . . . Wanted me to tell

him that, you know—get it out of me. So after work he makes an appointment with me. He says, “After work why don’t we meet each other?” In the back of my house was a grass field. And in the back of my ranch house was a huge grass field. The grass was used for the stables, for bedding and feed for the horses. “We’ll meet you over there in the back, the grass field.” And then he brings up his friend, the Parker Ranch store manager.

HY: Who was that?

HK: Pang Kawai. Chinese man. Pang Kawai. And two of them were coming in the back there, wait(ing) for me, and (as) I (approach them) they (had) half-gallon *sake*. Those days, long-neck, half-gallon *sake*, you know. They want to make me drunk so I would come out with something that they would like to know.

(Laughter)

HK: They smart, eh? Yeah.

HY: So what [happened then]?

HK: And this was going on for some time, you know. Then finally I told ‘em, “Sonny, don’t worry. I’m not going to stay with you long because (the) plan is that I’m going to another job and keep on doing that.” And finally I ended up in the slaughterhouse. See, we had an old Japanese man, [Kosuke] Ota, his name, he’s the slaughterhouse man. Those days the slaughterhouse man (duties are): He kills the animal, he skin the animal, he dress the animal and bring ‘em down to the butcher shop. And he had to make all the various cuts. Cut the. . . . No freezer those days so you just hang (the meat) in the chill room and that’s it, see. And then you had to cut all the meat. So you gotta slaughter, skin, and then you gotta dress the animal and then you gotta cut in various pieces. And then I had to be his helper. I was in there for two weeks and (then one day) the superintendent of the ranch, Theodore Vredenberg tells me, “Well, are you ready to go to Honolulu?”

I said, “For what?”

“Well, as soon as you get accustomed to that job that you’re doing at the slaughterhouse, the plan is you’re going to be sent down to Honolulu to learn more about slaughtering animals and skinning the animals. And you going be the (butcher man). You going take the Mr. Ota’s job.”

HY: Was that true?

HK: Yeah. Because Mr. Ota, physically, he was complaining. He’s not well. And when I heard that, I told Theodore Vredenberg, “No, I don’t want. I don’t want. I refuse.”

He tell me, “Why?”

I say, “I can’t stomach. I can’t stomach this killing cattle and then I have to eat lunch. And when I eat lunch, I can’t even swallow my food.”

HY: What was the method they used to kill cattle?

HK: Oh, boy, I tell you, it's primitive way, you know. The spear.

HY: The spear?

HK: Yeah.

HY: Where would they place the spear?

HK: Until today, yeah? Until today they do that.

HY: The same way?

HK: Yeah. They go in the chute. Because of the blood—it smells blood all in the slaughterhouse and on the ground, you know. The animal suspects. They know immediately. Their behavior is so different. It's just like they're going to their last breath life already. They get all worked up. And then you put 'em in the chute. Once you get 'em in the chute you---there's a squeezer, squeeze it. So the animal cannot move around, too. So you get a better target to spear the back of the neck. And that will only numb that animal. As soon as the animal is numb(ed), the chute opens. When it opens, the animal slide right into the slaughterhouse. It's a little slope and he slide right down. Roll down. And then there, immediately as a helper, you have to put the chain block, [and] tackle, on the animal's hind leg and hoist 'em up. No electricity, those days. Hoist with the hand. Chain block, we call it. And still the animal is numb, eh. Alive yet. Then, Mr. Ota will go over there and cut the throat. Bleed it, yeah, hang it. Sometimes the animal stands up (before getting to his hind legs to hang). So he has a .38 revolver on the side always ready. Yeah.

HY: And shoot them . . .

HK: Yeah, shoot the animal.

HY: And still today they do it this way?

HK: I believe yeah. Yeah.

HY: So did you do all of those things?

HK: Yeah. I couldn't stomach that. You know why, what happened was that what we used to give to the employees, the meat, supply meat to the employees. They were fat animals. Oh my gosh, they were too fat in fact. But most of (them had) cancer eye, we call it cancer-eye animals. One side get big cancer eye, blind, smelly, stink, and what have you. And you have to go and kill that animal and, you know. And it's not only the blood and whatever, you go through all of that, you can't stomach that.

HY: So, was this A. W. Carter's plan for you to learn more of this . . .

HK: Yeah, he finally---I think he made a decision at that time that I'm gonna---that they're going to train me as Parker Ranch butcher man (because Mr. Ota, the butcher, his health was failing rapidly). And I refused. And he accepted.

HY: Did you talk to him about it?

HK: Yeah, he accepted.

HY: What were the other things that he had---you said that he was teaching---he wanted you to learn all the aspects of the ranch?

HK: Yes.

HY: What else did you do?

HK: From there I went mechanic helper, carpenter helper. Then I became a chauffeur like.

HY: Chauffeur?

HK: He liked my driving. Weekends when he used to come up (to the ranch from) Honolulu, well, I'm his chauffeur, you know. And after that what happened was that the cactus, the infestation of the cactus was terrible, you know, out this way in the dry side of the ranch. It was getting so thick. Wild growth or volunteer growth of cactus (were) everywhere. And the cowboys were having a difficult time driving cattle through that. So he finally decided that he (had) to do something. And he was a great politician, too. He tried to get some sort of approval from the state [Territory of Hawai'i], the Board of Ag [Board of Agriculture and Forestry] to allocate some funds and send people out and find out what can be done about this cactus. And he knew there (were) various ways of doing it. Number one was insects, disease, fungus disease and all that. Anyway, he couldn't do it because the other neighbor ranchers are against the idea of eradicating the cactus.

HY: Why is that?

HK: Neighbor ranch depends on cactus for the cattle feed. Dry land. And they eat the cactus leaf. The red cactus is the one that cattle really like.

HY: Did the cactus also feed his own herd?

HK: Own herd. Yeah, yeah.

HY: But it was too much?

HK: No, (not as a source of food). (Not feasible to feed [the cattle] cactus. Cactus nearly overtook the pastures.)

HY: Oh, I see.

HK: It makes it very difficult for the operation of the ranch as far as driving cattle through and mending your water troughs and all that. And cactus itself is not going to produce much weight on the cattle. So he put me on the job. Although I was under another foreman on the ranch, on the cactus job, but he assigned me a specific job aside from that with a crew to handle eradication with the University of Hawai'i entomologist. And (at that period of time,) we can't get the insects in. We can't get anything else imported in, so we were killing the

cactus by chemical means.

HY: What kind of chemicals?

HK: Sodium chlorate which is very, very dangerous (as I found out later). Sodium chlorate is in (granular) form. (To be effective we dilute this to liquid form.) It comes in a granular form, but it picks up moisture so fast from the air, however when it dries up from the sun, it's equivalent to gunpowder. You know the powder in your ammunition or whatever. With a spark of a---any kind of spark catch that powder, it'll burst. It's very dangerous. It's a high, high sodium salt content. And I lost one man---burn to death. We were coming home from work and what happened was three of us in the front seat, I'm driving and this guy in the middle he smokes all the time. And like me, like a fool, I didn't know the danger of this sodium chlorate, nobody taught us that. He was smoking and he threw the cigarette out of the car and the wind blew (the cigarette) back to that guy sitting next to him. And his clothes saturated with that sodium chlorate is dry, dry. We (are) working in a dry area. Caught fire. Rush him to Kohala Hospital [County of Hawai'i North Kohala District Hospital] and he passed away over there. Anyway, I used to make a annual, I mean a bi-monthly report to A. W. Carter (in Honolulu where) he was operating the ranch business. And he wanted me to make a report every two weeks---"How are we doing?" And during the weekend he comes up, I'm his chauffeur. He wants to see what I'm doing.

HY: Did people just not know how dangerous or how flammable sodium chlorate was or did they just not tell you?

HK: Yeah, I often wondered over that, you know. When they---when we got in the accident, when that person caught fire, (we found out how dangerous this chemical was, highly combustible). But why weren't we warned prior to that from where we purchased that material? I think we purchased all through Brewer Chemical [C. Brewer Company]. That's where it was coming. And later on I found out that the sugar plantation, they were (also) using this material quite often, too, to kill weeds. In other words, this was being used as a herbicide also. It sterilized the soil, nothing would grow. We inject this material, liquid---diluted form---into the cactus foliage, inject it. And that section of the foliage will die. And so you gotta inject every darn foliage on the cactus. Cactus---every joint there's another leaf. And when you inject and you pull the injector out of the leaf, the (liquid) shoots back at you. Splash right back right into your face sometimes. That's how dangerous it was. (When) it was (in) liquid form or (in) a moist form, no problem. When it dries (it's dynamite). Oh, another accident I got out of that thing is that I caused a big grass fire. All the tools---I had about seven, eight men under my crew at that time. Each time they increase my working crew. And I had about six or seven guys in my crew and I had a fairly sizable truck with a pump and a tank and so forth. But after, just about quitting time, everybody throw their tools in the truck, you see. And [the] tools are metal tools, you know. And hit the floor of the truck and the floor of the truck get metal also. Metal [and] metal hit, and you know, banging each other and scraping. The spark. The spark caused a fire right on the truck and the fire followed right through the bed of the truck out to the grass pasture. Big fire out there.

HY: Was anybody injured in that fire?

HK: Nobody, lucky thing. And you know how we used to fight fire those days? Man had to fight the fire and get a branch, get a lot of branch and just keep on doing this . . .

HY: Beat it.

HK: Yeah, we form a battle line; long line and you take so much section, so many space, and then the next one keep on going. And then the trucks will come in with milk cans, ten-gallon milk cans of water. cattle.

HY: So were they resentful, A. W. Carter being able to . . .

HK: Yeah, eventually I believe they seen the light. They seen it was a sort of a saying that common sense will tell you that the cactus is not a way of raising cattle. You have to get good grasses imported and which A. W. Carter constantly brought in species of grasses from various parts of the country. And we had good grass, you know. Good high-protein grass and our neighbor rfc] name of that [*cactoblastis*]. And it's a larvae type. It comes in a form of a moth, lays an egg on the thorn of the cactus, a long spike egg. And lot of eggs on that little spike. And then when that egg will hatch, when it hatch it's gonna be a larvae, a little worm, a tiny little worm. Bright, nice looking worm that creeps into the foliage of the cactus. And lives inside there and eat all of the sap. And by doing—boring hole in the foliage, we have another mate transmitting the disease that this larvae will transmit the disease from foliage to foliage. That's the fusarium disease. That disease did the work. Transmitting all this from plant (to plant). And (to this day it is) still (working, transmitting plant to plant).

HY: That's . . .

HK: Yeah, I talked to Ernest [R.] Yoshioka, entomologist, [State Department of Agriculture], in Hilo. He said they (are) still finding. But not as much because of the fact that unfortunately this fusarium disease is not effective on the white cactus. You know there are two type of cactus we have, the red cactus and the yellow one. Not white but yellow, eh. Yellow fruit, red fruit. The red fruit had very high content of water in the foliage so that this fusarium disease works better on that. And less tissue in it, fiber, less fiber in that foliage. Whereas the yellow cactus has more fiber and less liquid in the foliage. So this fusarium disease not—they do get organized and start working on the leaf, begin the disease, begin to spread. But somehow, the plant will resist it. So they leave (a) dry affected area on the foliage, that's about it. And beyond that (the fungus growth ends). The fungus disease just fades away, dries up. (This reaction or behavior of the disease is true only on the yellow cactus.)

HY: So at this time when you were able to bring in the larvae and fungus too, was there still resistance from some of the other . . .

HK: Ranchers?

HY: Yeah.

HK: Yes. Our neighbor ranch, they were very much concerned.

HY: Who was that?

HK: We call Pu'uwa'awa'a Ranch. Pu'uanahulu Ranch. Because they actually had more cactus than we had, I believe. And their pasture, strength of their pasture is dependent upon their—not exactly all together on the forage they had, much of it is dependent upon the cactus

because it is so hot and dry there cactus is somewhat of a blessing to them, to the cattle.

HY: So were they resentful, A. W. Carter being able to . . .

HK: Yeah, eventually I believe they seen the light. They seen it was a sort of a saying that common sense will tell you that the cactus is not a way of raising cattle. You have to get good grasses imported and which A. W. Carter constantly brought in species of grasses from various parts of the country. And we had good grass, you know. Good high-protein grass and our neighbor ranch seen that and tried to improve their ranch on a similar basis. However, recently, we had another problem there. They have another undesirable thing that was beginning to infest, come through the neighbor ranch to Parker Ranch. Infested into our ranch here, that's the fountain grass which practically taken over the entire lower section of Parker Ranch.

HY: What's wrong with the fountain grass?

HK: Fountain grass. Fountain grass is a very high-fiber grass and that grows very wild. Ideal location is in the dry land, in the lava land. However, we found out that slowly, it was very slowly creeping into the good land, deep soil, and today it comes right into the backyard, so-called, of Parker Ranch. And it's all deep soil, good soil, and they taking over all our good land. (Fountain grass) has a very low (nutritive) value, practically nothing. Very high in fiber, dry, and if the animals are forced to eat, they'll eat it. But it's not the way of producing cattle. Economically you're not going to make a profit out of that type of---you're not going to get much production out of that type of grass.

HY: This was in the [nineteen] thirties still, is that right? Where you're working on the cactus eradication program?

HK: Yes, it was in the thirties.

HY: And how long did you do that for?

HK: Oh, excuse me. It was not in the thirties, it was in the forties.

HY: Oh, I see. During wartime?

HK: Wartime and after war, yes.

HY: How long did you do that for?

HK: I did it up to about 1950.

HY: I see.

HK: Yeah.

HY: Getting back to when you first started working for Parker Ranch, after you'd worked five years at the dairy, is that right? Then A. W. Carter had you do these series of jobs so that you could learn all of the ranch.

HK: Yes.

HY: What were some of the other things you did—the slaughterhouse and eventually the cactus eradication, the chauffeuring. What were some of the other things you did?

HK: Well, he was very happy that when I had the Boy Scout troop I made a project within our, in my troop. My project was related to ranching. Collection of foliage—collection of various grasses on Parker Ranch land in which he was very pleased about because these are the grasses that he imported, the seed(s) that (were) imported. And they were imported and growing so well out here and he wanted to know in what areas these grasses had been located. And my boys collected all these grasses. And we had a way---we had a, what you call? We had an agronomist graduated from University of Hawai'i, Eddie Hosaka, Edward Hosaka. He wrote a book on pasture grasses [*Grasses of the Hawaiian Ranges*]. He's---I would say he was (a) knowledgeable man, A. W. Carter fell in love with him and asked him to—release him from university and borrowed him for so many months on the ranch to study the entire ranch pasture, what we have on the ranch and made a report on 'em. And eventually he was more like a—retained by Parker Ranch. He used to come up ranch quite often. And Eddie Hosaka is the one taught me how to mount this grass and make a scrapbook out of 'em. And all the information on each grass, the description of the grass and so forth, and the value of the grass was taken out of Eddie Hosaka's book. And the boys took it out of the book and then they all had a scrapbook, and oh, A. W. was so happy about it. (I was like a coworker with Eddie Hosaka.)

HY: I think we're running out of tape again. How're you doing?

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 22-85-1-93; SIDE ONE

HY: This is a continuation of an interview with Hisao Kimura, tape two, session one.

HK: And then it came to 1939, about 1939 we started out that victory garden which was a time that I was out of the ranch for four months, you know. I was suspended.

HY: Why was that?

HK: I was suspended from Parker Ranch for four months. It was not planned as four months, but it lasted four months anyway. Because of my marital problem. My marriage. I had a problem as a young fellow.

HY: This was your first marriage?

HK: Yes, my first marriage. And Alfred W. Carter, I mean Hartwell Carter sent the lady over who was the Kohala Girls' School headmaster. She came and (spoke to me that) and I'm gonna be suspended. (She) didn't say how long. (After four months I was asked to return.) And when I came back my immediate boss was Hartwell Carter's sister, Edie Carter, Edith [Carter Podmore]. And she asked me to start the home garden because I---now the reason

why the home garden started off as a Parker Ranch project because during the depression years, we still had the effect of the depression, even the 1930s, late thirties, latter part of the thirties, we still have the effect of it. And we must prepare ourselves, and sustain ourselves with food. That's when the victory garden came in, you know. And then we started out a series of victory garden throughout the community and while working with this project, I got interested in ag [agriculture], growing things. And then one day while I was in the field, Harold Baybrook, graduate of Oregon State College came to the field and asked for me. And my boys told Harold Baybrook a way to find me in the field. And Mr. Baybrook came and see me he says, "Are you Hisao Kimura?"

I says, "Yeah."

"Well, Mr. Carter told me to come and see you. From today on you are to work with me."

So he was my immediate boss. So I worked under Harold Baybrook and that was the beginning of the cactus eradication program, planting grasses and so forth. Yeah.

HY: How did the---was this something that the community reacted to, your personal problems?

HK: No, not necessarily. My personal problems came about because the headmaster at the Kohala Girls' School, Mrs. [Jane] Hill, began---what you call?---complaint, you see. And through that complaint it mushroomed to a point where either I quit seeing my girlfriend, my present wife [Elizabeth Lindsey Kimura], or else you got to go, you know. And that was the beginning, yeah.

HY: It's very unusual to---divorce was not that common at that time. How did your family react to this?

HK: My divorce?

HY: Yes.

HK: My mother---my father had already passed away. I think I would have had much more. . . . I think he would have had much more to say to me. But my mother---my father passed away so my mother couldn't say anything much to me. It's just being a mother, you know, she was much more understanding and she was very quiet about the whole thing. Of course, she was not happy. I could sense that, naturally. And she was not to a point that she would put her foot down and ask me to do this or that. She didn't. Although the community itself, the leaders of the Japanese so-called association, they came and see me.

HY: What did they say to you?

HK: They say, well, number one they say, "I think you are not. . . ." In fact they discouraged me to a point where---saying that, "Your life is ruined. And you making yourself in a worse condition than ever if you going marry to a Hawaiian girl. Why you have to marry a Hawaiian girl?"

HY: Was that the main reason they were . . .

HK: The community, the Japanese association, yes. (Before the war, this organization was called

the Kamuela Nihonjin Kai—meaning Waimea Japanese Association. Later, after the war it was changed to Japanese Civic Association, and sometime in the late 1950s it was changed to Kamuela Japanese American Civic Association, which stands till today.) That was, yeah. Hawaiians were not looked upon as—Hawaiian girls are not looked upon as a good mother, so-called. But I stood my ground. I didn't argue back or whatever, I just listened to whatever they had to say.

HY: I believe you had an older brother who married a Hawaiian, or part-Hawaiian, is that true?

HK: My younger brother (several years after my ordeal).

HY: Oh, a younger brother.

HK: After me.

HY: So you were the first one?

HK: Yeah.

HY: I see. Just getting back, again, to some of the other jobs that you had, you had an opportunity to learn all the different aspects of Parker Ranch, what were some of the other things that you learned?

HK: Some other work that I had done, as I say I was a mechanic helper. And I was a Parker Ranch water-pump man which I had a—much of a leisure time on that because it's not much of a job that you would care to make as your livelihood because it's a monotonous job. You start the engine, pump water, and let the pump do all the work and you would just wait for the hours and time to quit and you just stop the engine and come home. You gotta check your water, of course. The volume of water that you have pumped. But other than that I . . .

HY: I'm sorry, is this water to supply . . .

HK: Cattle.

HY: For the cattle.

HK: For the cattle, yes. We had substation and booster pumps. You still have it throughout the ranch now, although it's all electricity. Then the other jobs I had done was truck driver. Truck driver was not for me exactly. It was quite a heavy job. But although Parker Ranch had only two trucks, you know. Just two trucks. And more like I was a substitute truck driver. You know when the truck driver had to get a sick leave or vacation time, they put me back on the truck driving.

HY: Were you transporting cattle or were you. . . What were you transporting?

HK: All right. Mainly transfer, yeah. But one of the major job was hauling cattle all the way from Kahuku, which is on the other side of the island. Parker Ranch owned that ranch at one time. This is the time that Parker Ranch had so much acreage. We had to bring in the market animals all the way from Kahuku back to the main ranch here. And from here, ship it to

Honolulu. And that was—usually last about two weeks. You gotta live out there and get up early in the morning, load the cattle, cowboys would load your truck, and all the way begin to—main ranch here. And it takes one day, a day's job. One load a day.

HY: And you're supplying Honolulu—does the cattle go to the Mainland from there? Or is this just to supply Honolulu?

HK: Just to Honolulu. Hawai'i Meat Company—they had their feedlot and a slaughterhouse there, yes. This is the Hawai'i Meat Company that the slaughterhouse had to be closed just recently, end of last year. Just recent.

HY: What were some of the other things you did?

HK: Oh, let's see, what other things did I do? Shee, that's about it. Most of the—well the major job, though, that I worked for the longer period than any other job was planting grass, pasture grasses. Taking care weeds, eradication of weeds and so. . . . I had a big problem here when they introduced that grass called Kikuyu grass which I rejected. I rejected that. I fought back very vigorously. I said this is not the grass for pasture. Because knowing the fact of how much time and effort and the money that A. W. Carter had done to bring in all this good grasses from throughout the western country, midwestern states. And we had established such a good stand of all these grasses on the highland, cool-climate grasses. And here they introduced Kikuyu grass. And knowing the fact—I don't know how I felt very strongly this Kikuyu grass gonna hurt Parker Ranch. Because it's so aggressive. This Kikuyu grass is one of the most unusual grass ever known till today. For example, a top farmer from—what do you call?—Dakota, North Dakota, came over to Parker Ranch and leased Waiki'i prime cornfield land and he got a lease on the land and he start farming and he came and see me. I said—first he tell me, "They refused to rent the land up there purely because lack of rainfall." He asked me, "Is that true? Is that the reason Parker Ranch gave up farming there?" You know, planting corn.

I said, "No, to me it was not the rain. The rainfall, like any other farmer throughout the country, you depend on the rainfall. Some years you get bad years, some years you get good years. It's a gamble. Farming is a never-ending gamble. And those were the years, probably we had drought. But the rain comes back again. Good years come back. The reason back of the, what you call, Parker Ranch discontinued planting corn is because the person who went up there to plant corn didn't know how to plant corn."

So he used to ask me, "What's the reason? What do you mean by not knowing how to plant corn?"

I say, "He knew how to plant corn, but he didn't know how to prepare the soil." See, if the rain is coming in during May or June and you get your land prepared May or June. That's not the right way to farm. "The old ways when we used to farm," I told him, "you get your land prepared before the rain come. Till your land, get everything done, kill all the grasses, you get good tilled soil ready for the rain to come. If your land is ready to be planted anytime as soon as the rainfall season comes in. So in other words, when the rain comes then you begin to plant, you see. The rainy season comes. Your land is prepared already, way ahead of time."

Now, this other method this person was doing was the rain is gonna come, say May or June, start coming, he start plowing the land. So the grass is green, the grass is not decayed, you know, compost, there's no compost. So they asked me to go up there and plant the corn because I was the only one had the machinery down in Waimea. They used to plant by horse, you see. Horse pull the planter and the corn will drop. That's the old-style way of doing it, slow method. But I had a John Deere demonstrator from American Factors [Limited] and they told us to use it and try. So I had a John Deere corn planter and it plants four rows at a time. I drove the tractor all the way from here up to Waiki'i on the tractor and so I told 'em, "Is this the land you want me to plant?"

"Yeah."

"No way, it's not going to work."

You know the planter, the machinery planting, the soil gotta be tilled really perfectly because as the planter goes in, [if] this grass is still green, you know, in the soil, mixed with the soil, it picks up all the grass together with 'em. And you look in the back, the corn kernels drops, eh, it's dropping all on the grass. There's no soil to cover it. So how can you expect to have a crop of corn? This is what I'm telling this guy, Wally Coleman, came from the Mainland. No way. (The pheasants took care of all the corn kernels.) Before the corn can sprout and germinate, lot of pheasants up there at the time. So I told (Coleman), "Don't believe what they tell you." (So he acquired the lease of the land and went to farm.) But I told him, "You going have problems. Not about the rainfall or whatever."

He tell me, "What's the problem?"

"The Kikuyu grass," I tell 'em. "You watch out for the Kikuyu grass. You got to---I would recommend you (budget yourself a) sum of money and destroy the grass first. Herbicide the grass, kill all the Kikuyu grass and then you till your soil, till your land and prepare whatever you want to plant after that. But first of all you gotta get rid of that grass."

He tells me, "You know, I'm a farmer all my lifetime, grass never bothered me."

I say, "All right."

Then he was farming for about a year and a half or so, almost two years or so, at which time I had another job on the ranch. Any visitor comes on the ranch, I used to drive 'em around and show them the ranch. And this guy came from North Dakota and he's a farmer. A cattle rancher and a farmer. I said, "Oh, I'm gonna take you up there, Waiki'i. There's a guy up there from your state. Not because same state you know him. But anyway, I'd like you to meet him."

I took 'em up there and this guy was fixing his equipment in the shop, Wally Coleman. And I introduce him, "Mr. Coleman, this is a man from your state."

And the two guys were talking and I hear them talking and this guy ask Mr. Coleman, "How is the farming out here? How is it? Is it like back home?"

He says, "Boy I wish I had listened to these old-timers here. All my lifetime I have never,

never experienced such a grass as this."

So this man say, ask him, "What do you mean? Why this grass is so unusual?"

"You see this grass, you can't kill 'em with the equipment. He [the grass] rolls in the soil and that's it. He comes right back again."

A little sprig like this will come back. Because the roots is rhizome. Big roots. Doesn't have fine roots. Terrible, terrible grass. And today that whole---that grass is on the entire ranch. If A.W. Carter, Alfred W. Carter is living today and see all the grass, wonderful grass collection we made and showed him what we have on the ranch he would be a sad man. Not a single grass of that variety is living today. No more. All gone. So what happened now, the cattle boys say, the weight of the cattle has lots to do on the income for the ranch per acre and they not getting the weight.

HY: And you think that's a direct result of the kind of grass here?

HK: Yes, yes. And we all know. And our neighbor ranch, Monty Richards, yeah, Kahuā Ranch, Monty Richards is a great farmer, you know. He's not only a rancher, he's a farmer. And he tells me, "We gotta do something about this grass." He has nothing but that grass. Before Parker Ranch he had 'em first, you see. So he say, "I know what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna get the county extension agent help me and put up an experiment plot on my ranch. And show me how much it's gonna cost to fertilize the land and how much my returns gonna be in terms of pounds of beef." So the University of Hawai'i research department [Agricultural Experiment Station] had to do something about it because Monty Richards want them to do experiment. And ranch of course supply all the expenses. And they did. They made a thorough, very, very comprehensive type of research, fertilizing program. And this was an area all ranchers would keep an eye on. Because Monty had a, you know, had vision enough to say that we gotta do something about this grass. And till today he's fertilizing. Until today he's getting the results. He's a smart man that fellow.

HY: Getting back to the beginning of your victory garden, this is with, is it Edith . . .

HK: Edie Podmore, (Edith Carter Podmore).

HY: What was the reasoning behind starting these victory gardens?

HK: Yeah, that's the thing that puzzled me a lot. That bothered me a lot, up to even till today. Well, I talked to several people after you interviewed me the last time. Why did we ever start this victory garden? And one of them told me, "I think it was because of the difficult time we had during the depression years. And if such-and-such thing should happen to Hawai'i, which you hope not, transportation would be hindered as far as importing our food from the Mainland. What are we gonna do in Hawai'i, you know?" So something must be done to be self-sufficiency type of program. So Parker Ranch was one of them to start right away our victory garden. And they name it as a victory garden, yeah.

HY: What did you grow in your victory garden?

HK: Okay. First of all on the ranch scale, on the ranch land, we planted Irish potato to

experiment. On the experimental basis we had, I think we had three different varieties of Irish potato. And then next is kidney beans on a large scale. And on the individual employee and the residents of Waimea, whoever requested, I had a gang to go and establish a garden for them. Till the land, fence it off, and supply the vegetable seed, all varieties of vegetable seeds. Not much of type like corn, no, this was mostly lettuce or cabbage and beans and that type of vegetable. Beets, yeah. And I make my rounds every month: How are they doing? And I give them suggestions—how they like to know any kind of new method or how to fertilize for instance, and how to sow the seeds and all that. Some of the ladies, especially, they didn't know how to grow things.

HY: Was there any sense that these gardens were started because there might be war?

HK: That's the thing bothered me all the time. Now, how did we know that the war was gonna start? How did we know that we need to be self-sufficient? That we need food to begin with. And this bothered me all the time. And nobody really give me a good answer saying that it wasn't because the war was expected or what, you know. But. . . .

HY: Was there a food shortage, a vegetable shortage?

HK: No, not that I know of. Because as far as I can see, vegetables were the least of the food that was consumed by people around here. Meat was the main (food). Everything is meat, you know, yeah.

HY: Was there then an excess of produce when all these victory gardens were started?

HK: No, no, not to the extent that it was. . . . The volume of harvest out of this victory garden was not so great to say that we had an excess.

HY: Who were the people that would plant these victory gardens?

HK: Nearly all of the employees.

HY: Parker Ranch employees?

HK: Yeah, Parker Ranch employees. And then I had few farmers, (independent farmers).

HY: Were you the one to tell them what to plant?

HK: I would suggest to them what they should plant. They have a choice of what they want to plant.

HY: So this---you started doing this as a result of being suspended, right?

HK: After the suspension.

HY: Oh, after the suspension.

HK: After that they brought me back on the ranch and they thought, well, where they gonna put me. And probably they thought this. . . . A good area of my work. I assume that way

(chuckles).

HY: What did you do during---did you say it was four months? Your suspension: What did you do during that time?

HK: Four months. All right. Four months I didn't stay idle. Was quite interesting to me because this was something that I had done and earned my own way by shipping the. . . Are you familiar with *pohā*?

HY: Not really.

HK: *Pohā* food that they use in ice cream and so forth today. Jam and jelly. Well, there is a farmer up above Hawaiian Homes land (Waimea Homestead) had about twenty acres of corn, planted with corn. And those days was---we didn't know sweet corn at all. It was field corn, eh. Anyway, after he harvested the corn that he plant in the twenty acres, a lot of *pohā* plants came up. Wild growth established in that field. And when I saw that, I went to see this person. And his name is William Payne. William Payne was with the Board of [Water] Supply in Hilo, I believe. Anyway, he had a homestead here (at Waimea Homestead). I went to see him to---if I can harvest that *pohā* and how he would---if he allowed me to do that---how he would charge me, what kind of arrangement would he offer me?

He said, "Well, you can go and help yourself. And whenever you go out, you report to the caretaker." There's a caretaker. He had a house there. "Just report to him how many bags you got of *pohā*, that's all. And I'll figure out how much (to) charge you."

And I was picking those *pohā*, I went to [I.] Oda Store, the owner [Iwasuke Oda] of Oda Store.

HY: Is that I. Oda?

HK: Yeah. And Mr. Wakayama was the manager of the (store). Mr. Wakayama will save me all of those orange crates. You know orange fruits used to come in a box, crates you know, with the partition in the middle. And all those orange crates he saved it for me to put the *pohā* and ship it to Honolulu. Chun Hoon [Limited Wholesale & Chun Hoon Market Limited Retail in Honolulu]. And every shipment I make, Mr. Wakayama will tell me, "Eh, they want some more." You know, "Can you ship more than what you shipping?" So that kind of encouraged me to work a little harder and pick more. And when I go and pick the *pohā*, I take my mother-in-law, my wife's mother, and my wife's cousin, and niece, three of us, four of us altogether we go up there and pick. So I had helpers.

HY: Is this---what year is this about?

HK: That was 1940.

HY: Nineteen forty.

HK: [Nineteen] thirty-nine, latter part of thirty-nine or forty.

HY: So this is your current wife?

HK: Yes, yeah. I was already married.

HY: What year did you get married?

HK: [Nineteen] forty, forty, that's right. It was '40. [HK later corrects himself: He was married in 1941.]

HY: I thought it was '41. Oh, okay, 1940?

HK: Yeah, yeah, (1941).

HY: So all you folks would go up and pick *pohā*?

HK: *Pohā*, yeah, yeah. So the ladies whoever go up, you know. My mother, my mother-in-law, and another lady Mrs. Liana. They all liked to go up and pick for their own home use. So you pick whatever you folks want. That's okay.

HY: So you found that there was a market for. . . .

HK: Yes. Until today there is a market. So while I was doing that I sort of enjoyed it. And then Mrs. [Edith Carter] Podmore came see me to come back. That's when I started the victory garden. After the victory garden was. . . . The war broke out so naturally I was doing something else now. I used to pump water and mainly pumping water.

HY: Just for the cattle?

HK: Yeah, yeah. And then 1960, when Hartwell Carter retired as manager, Richard Penhallow became the manager. He put me in charge of the Parker Ranch [Pu'u'ōpelu] Tree Nursery, (a project of 100,000 Reforestation Program). The Parker Ranch tree nursery is a well-established, old, old, established nursery. A.W. Carter was such a, what do you call, environmentalist, and he liked to have trees. So he established a nursery and he had full-time worker and a caretaker. He imported all of the seeds, different various type of trees, and mainly it was eucalyptus those days—eucalyptus (and) cypress. He prefer eucalyptus because you have a wide variety of selection of eucalyptus, (due to wide variation of type of soil corresponding with elevation and environment). There are about at least 200 varieties of eucalyptus that can grow well out here. And I had an idea about using the eucalyptus trees in the later years as a fence post. So that's the reason why he stuck to that—eucalyptus trees all over the ranch. So in 1960, when Dick Penhallow became the manager, he put me with the tree nursery. So I was on a full-time tree nursery. Reforestation program began in 1960, '61. And we had made arrangements with the state forestry [and wildlife] division to request that they import all of the species of pine trees, coniferous, needle pine trees. And the Parker Ranch will take the risk of experiment with all the different varieties. And the state did do that for us. They imported the seed, grew the seed, germinated the seed in Hilo at the Hilo nursery [the forestry and wildlife division later moved its nursery to Waimea], and when they're ready they call me up and I go and pick 'em up and we transplant that seedling into a bigger container. And when we get good size, we plant 'em out in the field. We did that practically all kinds of variety of pines. We have about 200 acres of pine forest up here. Beautiful pines, though, some of them. One variety turned out to be perfect Christmas tree. Slow growing but beautiful. So we were supplying that in our community, selling 'em

through the youth center [Waimea Youth Center]. Two of our employee ladies, one is a doctor's wife, started a youth center here because they had teenage girls. And to keep them---good program, they started a youth center. And then I would harvest all the trees and bring 'em down and the youth will sell the trees as their annual project. Now---(those) trees are overgrown already so they're not doing [selling] anymore. But I insisted we should start a Christmas tree program out at Parker Ranch. So Tony Smart [son of Richard Smart] and I, we were just about to start. Then Tony left the ranch, so then that left me alone and that time I had to retire. I just retired. (I have all the necessary information on the Christmas tree industry.) We were just about to start. We get all the upper land in the highland. Douglas fir that we import from the Mainland can be grown on this island, you see. Yeah. One interesting thing happened when Libert Landgraf, I don't know if you knew him---Libert Landgraf dad, you know, the father Libert Landgraf, (Sr.). Mr. Libert Landgraf was a state forest ranger for many years. And at his old age he came on this island. And he told me let's try the Douglas fir, he (had acquired) the seed, the Douglas fir seed that he located on the lowland California area or some place that might be suitable for Parker Ranch in this area. So the state nursery took half of the seed, I took half and we start planting 'em. And I (have) some of those Douglas fir growing up in a about seven- to eight-thousand-(feet) elevation at the present time. They growing all right. That made us all the more interested in growing Christmas tree.

HY: I would like to go back to the beginning of wartime.

HK: Yeah.

HY: You begun your victory garden and you're remarried. What do you remember about December 7, [1941]?

HK: What do I remember?

HY: What were you doing?

HK: (I was on the victory garden project, and with the ranch program of growing potatoes, corn and beans.) December 7 was just like a dream. Nobody had a---on the very outset when they first heard the news [nobody] would have believed. You know, nobody. Then it became--- then the news came heavier, and heavier. And all of a sudden this is real. And the first thing that happened was Parker Ranch of course was the biggest employer here and has the heaviest number of employees and they had all the facilities in this area, community. They opened their office as headquarters and formed a home guard [informal group, not part of the Hawai'i Territorial Guard]. And they compelled every resident in the community to turn in all their firearms. We all had to turn in our firearms. They said, "It will be returned later on." But we never saw them back again. Never did.

HY: Was that a common item for people to have, firearms?

HK: I wouldn't say common. Yeah, I don't think it was common. Except this a great hunting area so most of the people had shotguns.

HY: Shotguns.

HK: Yeah.

HY: Where were you on December 7?

HK: On December 7 I was here. I was out of the dairy and I was living with my mother [and wife] at Parker Ranch home, house.

HY: Were you at home?

HK: Yeah.

HY: Did you hear the news on the radio?

HK: Yeah. Then everybody was just stunned. Then prior to that though, prior to that when I got back from high school, when I came back to Waimea I was very much of an aggressive guy. Fresh out of school so I was just like a know-[it]-all type of guy and nobody else. There were no educated people around here except the schoolteachers. So I took some leadership role in whatever I did. And going to the Japanese association meetings, they didn't call it Japanese association I found out later [originally called the Kamuela Nihonjin Kai]. But anyway, it was a Japanese association, you know. And they had strong ethnic group here. (The population by race were) Hawaiians, Japanese [and a] (small number of other ethnic groups). There were just few. But Japanese were (about the largest single ethnic group). But they were having speakers come in quite often from (Japan). And I just got together with my brother the other day. "Do you recall those days?"

He said, "Yeah."

He verify with me that he recall. I say, you know, Mr. Iwashita, which was the carpenter foreman on Parker Ranch. I was with Mr. Iwashita as carpenter helper. A. W. Carter put me all over the ranch to work with. And at that particular time I was with Mr. Iwashita as a carpenter helper. And I told Mr. Iwashita, he was one of the leaders of our community association, Japanese association. I said, "What is this going on that you folks are always bringing in speakers from Japan and Japan going be number one. I don't understand this and I don't like it," I said. This was my biggest complaint that I ever done. (Sometime later) when Pearl Harbor was attacked, suddenly something hit me, "Eh, this was expected like." You know to me, it was expected like. Why did they come out and telling us all these stories about Japan could have been number one? "You Japanese better wake up. You better be prepared. . . ." Or whatever. This is the reason why when I decided to---to even marry another nationality they was very, very much against. If I was another Japanese not interested in the association, not take an active role, they would never even bother with me if I marry another nationality. But because I was active in the role of the (Japanese) community, they felt that they should take care of me, too you know, the leaders of our Japanese association. And that bothered me, though.

HY: Did you express your, I guess your---did you express your questioning of them bringing in very nationalistic-type speakers or did you keep it to yourself?

HK: I kept it to myself except this argument that I had with Mr. Iwashita during the working hour. Right at the working site I did argue with him. "I totally disapprove of this type of thing. And

I can't stand it," I told him.

HY: Did you think that was an uncommon response to that, or were there other people that felt the same way?

HK: Amazingly, amazingly nobody else really had the same concern like I had. They took it fairly—like anything else, they didn't express themselves strongly against it or for it. And then you gotta understand at that time, this community was an easygoing community. Even the politicians at one time used to say, "We don't have to worry about Waimea. They (are) too---so relaxed people. They don't care." It's just a really Hawaiian community. Lovable community. (They) don't want to hurt people's feelings. They satisfied for what they are.

HY: Do you remember any of the names of any of those speakers?

HK: I don't. Yeah, yeah.

HY: I think we're about out of tape again.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 22-86-2-93

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Hisao Kimura (HK)

May 21, 1993

Waimea, Hawai'i

BY: Holly Yamada (HY)

HY: The following is a continuation of an interview with Hisao Kimura, session number two.

Okay. I think one of the things you mentioned yesterday was the formation of the home guard?

HK: Yes, the home guard.

HY: And that all you folks had to turn in your firearms. What kind of training did you get?

HK: Training as a home guard? None whatsoever. We were called into the Parker Ranch office which was used as the so-called headquarters in Waimea. And Parker Ranch management offered that office there because it was spacious and can accommodate more people. And we were just called in and given instructions. Just for the day, where to go and guard that area. And my duty for the first night was---the day of the, day or two after the Pearl Harbor attack we were afraid that they might be invading this Big Island. So myself and Thomas Liana, we were assigned to go up to Hōkū'ula Hill which is on the. . . . Short distance from the headquarters here. They built a little shack there for the home guard to stay overnight. And we were able to---we were supplied two horses and a shotgun and we went up there and stayed in a little shack made of one by twelve. Stayed all night in that cool weather and guard the---and just got to observe the---the reason why [the guard station was located there] Hōkū'ula Hill is high up above the area, enough to see down the coastal line, low lying leeward area of the island to see if we can observe any light coming in, which means that the enemy might be coming in. And that was the only duty I was asked to do. That particular one night. And thereafter we were not even asked to do anything.

HY: Was that whole---all of the home guard people or just some of them?

HK: That's a---I cannot answer that. I don't know why we were asked. Some of us were asked and some were not. But I believe that it was more of a home guard comprised of most of the Parker Ranch employees. That's the way I looked at it, yeah. At that particular night we were told to watch very carefully for any lights that coming in on the coastal area because the report came in that they saw light coming in down the Kawaihae beach area. And we didn't see any light at all.

HY: Do you remember how you felt about being asked to do that?

HK: Well, we were. . . . Hard to explain how we felt. We felt, well, we were apprehensive of course, and we were scared. Just scared, you know, don't know what (was) going (to) happen because we not trained to protect ourselves. We're not equipped at all. Even a shotgun is no---we know that's just a dummy, you know. It's not going to do any damage. And the funny thing about it, I don't think we were given any ammunition.

HY: No bullets?

HK: No, no. Yeah, no shells.

(Laughter)

HK: And that's an unusual one. And it was just like showing that we had something, some protection, what do you call, some plan to protect this area. I don't know what happened at that particular time, our island national guards [Hawai'i Territorial Guard] were called away to another island. And not because of the Pearl Harbor attack, not knowing that Pearl Harbor attack, they were called to another island for training or something like that. So at that particular point we didn't have any National Guard on this island. We had no protection at all except the police department, but we had only one police officer in Waimea (laughs).

HY: Who was that?

HK: That was Arthur Akina.

HY: Oh, the sheriff.

HK: Yeah, yeah, sheriff.

HY: What do you remember about the shortages and rationing?

HK: Shortages.

HY: Were there food shortages, supplies?

HK: Shortages of food prior to the war?

HY: No, during the war.

HK: Oh, during the war, I would say during the war because of the influx of the number of military people moving in this area, we were, in a way, in a sense, fortunate. Because whatever excess food they had in their barracks, they used to share with the people in the community. And somehow we made friends after a while. And in fact, sometimes, we trade some things with them.

HY: What would you trade?

HK: Well, if they wanted a quart of whiskey, we tried to save a quart of whiskey or something

like that and trade. And they used to---those people working in the kitchen particularly, they used to just throw in some slab of bacon, whatever. Food shortages I can't imagine, except we were very. . . . It was very difficult to get any choice of beef because the demand of beef was great. And so Parker Ranch was fortunate. In fact, every food producers were very fortunate because the demand was great. Not only the beef, but the vegetables. Particularly vegetables and beef. And at one time, our disc jockey at that time was Lucky Luck, Robert Luck, his proper name I think was. He was a well-known disc jockey in Hawai'i. And he used to come up on the radio and says whenever you go into Waimea you see nothing but dollar signs because whenever he sees a cattle, there's dollar signs on the head of the cattle, see. It was such in demand because of the military, influx of large number of military people.

HY: Was Parker Ranch able to meet the demand for beef?

HK: Yes, Parker Ranch was able. In fact, that period the slaughter---the slaughterhouse was kept quite busy and Mr. Ota, as a butcher man all alone, cannot upkeep---skinning, killing, and skinning the animal. So they brought two workers from Hawai'i Meat Company from Honolulu, from the slaughterhouse. And it was something to just go and see these two men skin that animal. They were really good, fast. Whoa, professionals. Compared with Mr. Ota or any one of us. They were good. Yeah. And we used to go and just watch them how they skin the animal.

HY: Entertainment.

HK: Yeah.

HY: Was it difficult to get alcohol?

HK: Yes, we were---we got our alcohol based upon ration and we were allotted a ticket every week. And the ticket says one quart and that's it.

HY: One quart?

HK: Yeah, one little token thing. And Waimea stores didn't carry any liquor.

HY: Were they forbidden to carry?

HK: No. I don't know why, but we had to go to Honoka'a which is about fifteen-minute drive from here. So we all pool ride. Not everybody has a car here. So we all pool a ride and go to Honoka'a because you gotta go and purchase yourself. You cannot carry another person's ration. (So you need to have carpool and almost every trip to and back from going to Honoka'a town to get your ration of liquor---someone will share his quart and we all help ourselves until the quart is empty. This sharing went on like having each one taking their turn of offering his quart on rotation.)

HY: And that's it for the week?

HK: That's it for the week. Your ration is gone (chuckles).

HY: You mentioned that you might trade whiskey for something with the military? Was the

military restricted with alcohol?

HK: Very, I believe so. But probably they did have some drinks, but hard liquor I don't know. They used to love it, you know, they used to. . . . And we as civilians made friends, some of us made friends just purely to get some things out of it.

HY: What was it like with the blackouts?

HK: The blackout was very hard to get accustomed because—of course we had kerosene lamps. We didn't have any electricity and all of the windows had to be inspected by the MP [military police] (and including our local guards). They come and check practically every night. See if any lights are leaking out and we all had to install a blind in each window and if the blind is not installed properly the light will leak. There's a slight leakage and they'll come and check and they'll remind you to get it fixed. Night traveling was prohibited. You can't travel in the night at all because of the blackout. However, working for Parker Ranch we had a special permit. As I mentioned, I was pumping water at that time. And pumping water at odd hours, five hours during the day and sometime all night when I go back and pump again for the whole night . . .

HY: In the dark?

HK: In the dark. So what happened is, the car that I'm driving belong to the company, belongs to Parker Ranch. And the light, the headlight had to be inspected and they have. . . . They paint the headlight black with a small little opening. Just enough for the driver to see. Just few feet beyond the car, ahead of the light, you can see the road. Not any more further than that. So when you drive the car in the night you had to go very slowly and carefully. You cannot observe, you know, wide spectral light area. And traveling was very difficult and then coming home after you finish your work at night coming home in the dark, very likely you'll be stopped once or twice on the way home by the military people to inspect, see who you were and what not.

HY: So what would they say to you?

HK: They stop and then we gotta show our credentials and say that we were Parker Ranch employee.

HY: How was the---I know there was gas rationing, how was that?

HK: Oh, yes, we had a gas rationing also, gasoline rationing. And I forgot how many gallons we were allowed.

HY: Did Parker Ranch get any kind of waiver for that?

HK: Yes, Parker Ranch as a commercial---commercial people had special rationing. They were able to get, I believe, almost, I wouldn't say any amount of gas, but they had more than what the civilians can get.

HY: What were the social activities during the war?

HK: Social activities during the war was practically, practically none. Except we do have our own family of friends get together and have a little party. And there were occasions when you have such an occasion where you have civilians as well as the marines. Because at the outset of the arrival of the marines, we didn't form the, we didn't get friendly with them (for some time). But gradually we became friends because they needed the help also because taking for instance they needed someone to do their laundry or. . . . They were very nice about it. They (became) friends with the civilians very rapidly (thereafter). So whenever we get together as a social event, you have your marine friends there, too.

HY: When Camp Tarawa first was established [Military camps were first set up March 1942. The site became known as Camp Tarawa when survivors from the battle of Tarawa arrived in 1943.], this was the beginning of the first great influx of military. Initially, how did the community react to their coming here?

HK: Coming here? One of the---before the arrival of the marines we had some indication that something is going on because the army engineers [i.e., U.S. Engineer Department] came before them. And they took over all the, not all, but we had just limited amount of service stations. Some of the service stations where they repair cars, and what have you, were taken over by the army to do repair work for their vehicles. They brought in a lot of four-wheel drive vehicles and supplies and tents and what have you. And all these vehicles were stored up underneath the trees. Wherever there's a row of eucalyptus trees, or whatever trees, it was taken over by the army. And that's where all of this heavy equipment stored away underneath the trees. And at that particular time I felt very bad for the army boys because it was continuously (raining), having a light Waimea drizzle. And they were in the mud most of the time. Vehicles going in and out with the heavy equipment. My gosh, sometimes you can't even pass through on foot. So muddy. And that's where their (sleeping) tents were underneath the trees. Also, [that's] where all the vehicles were stored away. And where I was living (in the) Parker Ranch house (it) was one of those locations, (with) a long row of eucalyptus trees. And (adjoining) the Oda Store, I. Oda Store, there was a garage, Ryusaki's Garage. Ryusaki's Garage was taken over by the army to repair their cars. Yeah.

HY: Is this Parker Ranch house the same one that you grew up in or was this a different one?

HK: This is the one I grew up in.

HY: Okay.

HK: And this---fortunately after the war, our home, our Parker Ranch home was the first one to be renovated. It was [renovated from] a single-room to a two-room and then after the war they added on three more bedrooms. We had a five-bedroom house and the house is still there. They got it well painted and one of the employees, (a supervisor and family, are presently living in it).

HY: And this is all provided for by Parker Ranch?

HK: Parker Ranch, yes. Finally after the war they renovated the house. It took quite a while before they did. Yeah.

HY: You'd mentioned earlier about your Red Cross activities when the military came or . . .

HK: Yes, the Red Cross was something that we. . . . Our lady folks, particularly the lady folks were kept busy and they began to gather together. And Richard Smart's home was open for that purpose. And every day---and as I said, I was one of the drivers on the ranch. Vehicle driving---drivers on the ranch were just limited. You can just say [only] so many drivers on the ranch and nobody else can drive the company car. That was a policy that A. W. Carter had always maintained that he cannot see anyone, any employees driving the company car. Had to be approved by the management. So I was one of those drivers and I used to pick up all the ladies every day, take 'em to the Red Cross headquarters.

HY: Richard Smart's home?

HK: Richard Smart's home. And after the day's over I have to take them all home again.

HY: What would they do there?

HK: Oh, they were preparing bandages. Mainly all bandages. Preparing all bandages and packing the bandages to be shipped out. And at the same token they were taught how to do first-aid. And then the menfolks organized a first-aid squad. And I was a member of the squad and we, under Dr. [Timothy] Woo. Dr. Woo was our Parker Ranch doctor, he conducted the first-aid class to four of us in Waimea. And gave us tests and so forth. And Kona, Kona also had a first-aid squad. And we got together Richard Smart's home right out in Richard Smart's yard. The doctor will give us a competitive thing for both squads---the Kona first-aid squad and the Waimea to compete each other. And what we did was, there's a patient lying on the ground in the yard, and we as the first-aid squad, when he says go, and then we go run up to the patient and pick up the paper and you gotta read what kind of injury this person has. And you gotta do your work. And who does the proper way and the fastest way will be the winner.

HY: Who won?

HK: Waimea won, yeah.

(Laughter)

HK: We had that practice all the time here, you see. It was fun. And when I look at a photograph today, one of them is Sherwood Greenwell, (today) he's a big rancher in Kona [Kealakekua Ranch] and he (eventually became) a politician and he was our council member. And today he's retired and another (member of the Kona squad) was Iwao Jyo. Iwao Jyo (in later years became a) developer and he has housing development in Kona. He became quite wealthy man there in Kona.

HY: Did you ever have to put those skills to use?

HK: No. Never did. I don't think we ever did, except on the job. While you're doing on the job sometimes it comes in handy, particularly when you get, well, if you have a bleeding case, you know how to take care the bleeding.

HY: What do you mean on the job?

HK: Well, working (with fellow employees of the ranch). After when---when Dick Penhallow our

assistant manager became a manager [1960], he in fact, conducted a first-aid class for all the employees. It was almost a compulsory thing that we should have, eh.

HY: Was this men and women together?

HK: No, just the employees. Just the employees. Men.

HY: Men.

HK: Menfolks. And we (even) had water safety, too. We had to go through all of that.

HY: I had read that there was an anthrax epidemic on Parker Ranch during the war. Do you have any memories of that?

HK: On Parker Ranch, on the cattle?

HY: On the cattle.

HK: Oh, oh, yeah, this---I think what you mean is this disease that attack the cattle.

HY: What is it their . . .

HK: Blackleg.

HY: Blackleg.

HK: They call it the blackleg. And we had never, never heard about it. Never had a case of blackleg disease infested our cattle here. And this was a very questionable thing. Naturally the FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] came in to investigate how this blackleg got into Parker Ranch.

And they couldn't---they thought someone within the ranch, or within the community, somebody was sabotaging the cattle industry. You know not the cattle industry particularly, but the food, the source of food for the marines.

HY: Did they ever announce their findings?

HK: I don't know what happened to that case. I think my brother was one of 'em that was asked several questions. And only, only, I believe the only solution they came through was we have influx of so many marines here from all over the country, from all over the states, they might have unknowingly brought in the disease with them. Carried them. That's the only solution, I think, they ever had at the conclusion.

HY: How did it affect the productivity of the cattle?

HK: Blackleg will kill an animal, a healthy animal dies overnight suddenly without any symptoms of sickness. A healthy animal can just die. And one of the way of diagnosing, I believe, they used to cut the animal open and usually they say blackleg because it's underneath the arm pit, you know. The blood clogs under there, comes black. And they call it blackleg. That's the

reason why the name blackleg came in. But that disease is deadly. The animal will die overnight. Yeah, without warning.

HY: Did it impact on the meat supply?

HK: Did it. . . .

HY: Did it affect the meat supply at all?

HK: Not to, not to a great extent that it affected the productivity of the production of the cattle industry. But it hurt somewhat, though. I believe, fortunately, the blackleg or cattle disease does not transmit into the humans. That's one of the. . . .

HY: But humans are carriers?

HK: Humans can be carriers I suppose, yes. They could be carriers in a sense where, say if you carry with your shoes walking on the dirt, and the disease is still on the shoes and walking on the ground, you do carry the disease. And this blackleg disease, I believe was more or less, first found in the area of the pasture where the pasture was moist, so was constantly moist. Dry land is not that bad. Moist land the disease multiplies faster.

HY: How did the military---did the military respond differently to say the Hawaiian community as opposed to the Japanese community here?

HK: It's hard to say on that. When they first arrived, yes. They recognized the Orientals (without any) question. We were looked down upon. Marines didn't like Orientals (at) all when they first came in because the attack was by Japan. But eventually (the situation has changed realizing that we were all Americans). Maybe when you form some friends, you know, and they all trusted each other. And, yeah, but for a while, yes, there was a strong feeling there, yeah.

HY: Did they distinguish between Japanese and the Chinese, 'cause I know there was a small Chinese community here?

HK: I don't think they could have at the outset, though between Japanese and Chinese, yeah, yeah.

HY: Did you ever have access to going into Camp Tarawa?

HK: I did not have, except I had a very interesting two weeks going into the officers' barracks here. Richard Smart's uncle, we didn't know that he had an uncle, but we were told that he was a specialist doctor at Tripler Hospital. And he was treating all his---he specialized from the neck up. I don't know what type of doctor you call that, but he was a specialist from the neck up. This is what he told me, the doctor. And he came up about two weeks in our camp, Camp Tarawa to have his two weeks, more like R and R [rest and relaxation] thing. And we were told he's coming. So the management at the ranch at the time, Hartwell Carter and A. W. Carter assigned me to be the chauffeur for him, to take him around wherever he wants to go during the day for that two weeks. So I was his driver---every day I (drive) into the barracks and then wait for him.

HY: Can you describe what it was like inside the barracks?

HK: Well, it was barracks—it was well built. It's all tent. And where the officers' barracks were, the doctors and what have you. . . . The tent was over a wooden platform. The floor was wooden and there's a tent over it. Normally the marines have their tent (built) on the ground. But the officers have wooden floor. And they're well kept, neat, very neat. And every street (had) a name of one of those marines who have died in action. So every street has a name in which it's a person's name. Yeah. It was something to---there is a aerial photo as well as other photos on the stand at the Parker Ranch office of the camp.

HY: What happened to the local Japanese farmers here with the demand for more produce?

HK: Oh, Waimea farmers---I can't recall how many farmers we had, but just a limited number. And most of the farmers at that time in the [19]30s and [19]40s, they were aliens from Japan. These are the Japanese who had went through their contract [as contract labor] at the plantation [sugar plantations of Hāmākua and North Kohala]. After the contract they went out to farm, acquire leasehold land [from] the Hawaiians and they were farming here in Waimea. And the---it was a very, it was a struggle for our farmers because the transportation to marketplace was very, very primitive way. There's no definite transportation where you can ship your produce. And to begin with, the farmers didn't know what kind of produce to raise for market. (Variety of vegetable crops were limited.) The main crop was head cabbage and corn. Corn was mostly---every farmer had corn. (At which time) we didn't know there was sweet corn. (Field corn was the only variety known to farmers.)

HY: When you say field corn, does that mean for cattle feed?

HK: Cattle feed, yeah. And you have a limited time to consume (for human consumption) because it gets matured so fast. Sweet corn you can leave it for a little longer. I think the field corn is tasty, I live(d) with field corn, I like(d) it. But they get tough and hard very rapid. If it's ready to be eaten, you better eat that week because the next week it's going to be over matured. And I don't know why they were raising lot of pumpkins, (at that time). They had *daikon*, yeah, lot of *daikon*. And the marketing was (on the cattle boat) to Honolulu of course. And Parker Ranch had a little steamer called, *Humuula*, [owned and operated by Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co.] and it comes into Kawaihae at least once a week. And this is a way farmers used to ship their vegetables to Honolulu. And another product they used to ship was chicken, live chicken mind you. They raised the chicken in the backyard on the ground. Nobody knew how to raise chicken above the ground. It was raised on the ground, young chickens. Put 'em in the crate and ship to Honolulu, to the market. And (there) was one of the marketing person [who] would go around (observe) and select the chickens as he goes house-to-house. And he buys the chicken and ask them if they want to ship (them). And buy the chicken and he does all the preparing, put 'em in the crate and ship to Honolulu. And I used to go along with that man when I was a little boy. [Kazuo] Fukushima [of Fukushima grocers]. Fukushima was a man that goes around and ship this chicken out. And somebody's chicken would be shipped even to Hilo but I didn't see any---how a local chicken could be shipped to Hilo because there's no transportation. It's hard to believe, but from Waimea to Hilo, mind you, we didn't have any transportation. The only source of---a way to get into Hilo, when I was going to Hilo [High] School, you go to the Pa'auilo sugar plantation train station. And you get on the train from Pa'auilo station and travel to Hilo on the train. And I didn't see anybody shipping chicken or vegetables through that train.

HY: What kinds of vegetables did they start producing—because of this new demand—that they hadn't previously?

HK: Yeah, just prior to the war, just prior to the Pearl Harbor attack, [Yasuo] Baron Goto and Judge [David McHattie] Forbes of Waimea, Baron Goto is a native of Puakō, which is right beyond Kawaihae. Baron Goto was a county extension agent [with the University of Hawai'i] and they were trying to help the farmers improve a variety of vegetables to be grown for commercial use. For human consumption, you know. And they were introducing a new type of seed. And one of the new ones was the head lettuce. The farmers in Waimea didn't know there was such a vegetable as head lettuce. And so Baron Goto had brought in the seeds through someone else and then taught them how to raise head (lettuce), carrots, and celery. And broccoli was not too well known either at that time. It was sort of a new vegetable out here. (Both Judge Forbes and Baron Goto were instrumental in sponsoring the Waimea Community Fair.) The fair was an incentive for the farmers to show what they were producing on their land and bring it out to the fair. And then it was very competitive and they took great pride in that. And in that way they were, the extension service people, were promoting the farmers to improve their productivity as well as the type of variety of vegetables to be grown. And then war broke out. So it was timing, was just about the timing, where the farmers didn't know what to grow and here they were just beginning to learn what to do. And when the war broke out, they were, I would say, almost ready to meet the demand. And as we look back, about the farmers in Waimea, as well as the Parker Ranch employees, these are the people who comprised the population of Waimea. The farmers, the employees of Parker Ranch, and few county road department workers. The farmers, as well as the Parker Ranch employees, with a low income they were having, need to have someone to support them whenever they need some help financially.

(At the time) we didn't have any bank. No bank was ever thought about those days. So we used to form, *da kine*. Well, we had a general store, I. Oda Store was one of 'em that really helped the farmers as well as the ranch employees. In my case, as a ranch employee, my father depended upon Oda Store. Whenever he need food we always purchase on charge account. And farmers were the same, similar things. And whenever we needed cash, we even borrow(ed) the cash from there. In our case, ranch employees, we go to the ranch office and ask for advanced payment in cash over monthly salary. They'll deduct from your payroll every month. And I would say that maybe, probably about 90 percent of the farmers as well as the ranch employees had some sort of a debt, either to the ranch office or to the store, I. Oda Store. And when the outbreak of this war and all the demand of these vegetables and what have you, people began to see some money. Lots of money. I would say lots of it. Even myself when I was pumping water, I pumped water five hours during the day, I come home and I have so much time, daylight hours was, you know. . . . So much time I had during the daylight hours, I did part-time farming. I went into raising celery. And when I was raising celery, we used to compare notes, we used to visit another farmer, get together with a farm agent and learn how to raise this vegetable. Nobody knew how to really—way of raising this celery. And it was a lot of fun. And the income was so good. And then all of a sudden you would hear a story, news go around from one to the other: "Oh, this month I had a \$1,000 check come in." That kind of deal. Then the next time you hear, "No, I had a \$2,000 check." Income, you know. And not only from the celery but from the income from all the vegetables they sold. So every farmer became—they begin to see money. Of course, the first thing they did, most of them I'm sure, was take care the bills they owe to the store, whatever. You know the debts were all paid up. And some of them after the war, naturally with the

money they had acquired during the war, they build a new home. Some of the farmers, as I said, some of the farmers didn't have a home (that's painted). Unpainted home. After the war things have changed a lot. So while some people were suffering from the war, some areas they were benefitting from the war. And this is one of the benefits this small little community (experienced).

HY: I think we're about out of tape here.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

HY: Okay you were saying that you had begun to grow celery and found it was very profitable. Who would you sell to? Was it primarily to supply the military?

HK: Yes (and no). We, at this particular time, began to—particularly the farmers—began to see how business is run. What makes a good businessman. Any kind of type of business had to be well planned and organized. And fortunately, the county agent had a lot of input in this, (when) they saw the importance of getting a co-op. Farmers must get together and form a co-op. Well, some of the farmers were quite skeptical at the time. But they had no choice because unless they get organized, they cannot meet the (market) demand(s). Nobody to plan, co-op will make all the plans, receive all the demands, and they will give this information to the farmers, what to raise because these are the demands you have to meet, you know. So they formed a co-op and this was one of the best things they ever done. So every month, you go to the co-op office and they'll tell you this week, "Hisa, it's your turn to supply, since you have only celery, this is your opportunity, your chance to supply the celery for this month, this week rather." If you have any other vegetable, they'll assign you what you should be bringing out. So you don't have to go and look for the market, you just go to the co-op office and they'll tell you what you supposed to be supplying this week. And over and beyond that now, if it's not my turn to supply the local market here which is the marines, then I ship my produce to Honolulu. You know, you have a---because we formed a co-op, the co-op will make all the marketing arrangements for you and it was so convenient as a grower. Your duty was to just grow, don't worry about marketing. Somebody else going to take care that which was very well planned, coordinated. Of course, we looked for a local market first. When your turn comes in to supply the local market, the reason in back of it is you get (high) net profit, practically everything is net profit. (No shipping cost.) You don't have any further expenses. So you look forward (for local market). And the price is good, locally.

HY: Was this co-op affiliated at all with Parker Ranch or was it completely separate?

HK: It's separate, it's a private, yeah. And what (was) sad---I feel very sad after that. After the war, now, some of the farmers became very rich, all right. The big farmers, we call them the big farmers, broke off from the co-op because they established their own market in Honolulu after the war. And they formed another co-op in Honolulu and which eventually didn't last too long because something went wrong with the co-op in Honolulu. Middleman supposedly was accused of making all the money and the growers were not getting their fair share, and all that. Some internal problem came in so they dissolved that co-op in Honolulu.

Yeah, they dissolved it. So now at the present time, the big farmers who are well established have their own market and they practically control the market. The small farmers---a new farmer come in the picture---(does) he ha[ve a] chance to market his vegetables? This the problem they're facing today because they not organized. The farmers have always been---ever since the war money have changed a person's attitude of doing business. Money has power in other words. And they begin to follow that pattern. And so the small fellow stays small and the big fellows gets big. And then the big farmers would try to---they would never encourage or help the small farmers. "I'm looking after myself, you look after your own." Everybody so independent. So what happened here, still to today, you cannot have some self-sustaining state to supply your needs of the state in terms of produce, vegetables. They still have to import. They not well organized as yet.

HY: What happened to the original co-op then?

HK: Yeah, it just dissolved because of the internal problem, again, comes in.

HY: How soon after the war, then?

HK: Oh, it didn't last too long after that, yes. It carried on, though, it did carry on after the war for a while. And then, you see, a farmer capable of producing, outproduce the others feels that, "Say I'm producing much more than you do and why can't I have more. . . ."

HY: Profit.

HK: "Profit or marketing privileges, you know. Why should I let the small ones cut in and I have to withhold my produce. I have to sell my produce, too." So they say, "Well, I might as well be on my own." So everybody is on their own. But till today I find one of my good friends down here just purchased the land, very expensive farmland---and yet [he has a] FHA [Federal Housing Administration] loan. And he has his obligation to meet his mortgage and yet he's having a difficult time because he's a new farmer. You as a new farmer, where can you find a market? You gotta get down to Honolulu and see some of these people and open up a market. But they say, "Well, we already have so-and-so to buy from." So they're having a really tough time. But farmers are---it's not only farmers, I believe anybody else when they become rich, they do have a very independent way of thinking. Yeah, they take care of themselves first. And we always say that we need to---big farmers should look after the small farmer, too sometimes, because they (are) in the same business.

And we are---unusual thing happening today on this island, just on this Big Island. Honoka'a [Hāmākua] Sugar Company, [Inc.] just folded up. There are thousands of ag [agriculture] land there. Now, what are we gonna do with the ag land? And what kind of produce---if they going to ag, and I'm sure major portion of the land will be used as ag, diversified ag, maybe. So now they must be told what type of produce to plant. They gotta do all the research here. So basically, we starting all over again like before the war. It's coming to that point again. And if we do get to that point, do we need to get organized and form a co-op again? This will be an interesting thing. And I think it's gonna follow that same pattern. I was just at the---I was just in the office yesterday and discussing about it. And they say, "Eh, we coming to the same point." Because we talking about a Waimea [Community] Fair how we promoted quality vegetables, we promoted variety of vegetables that farmers didn't know existed and these are the type that public demands for food. And now this Hāmākua Sugar [Co., Inc.] land will be

on the same basis. What are we gonna raise over there? They gotta find that out. What is suitable to be raised over there? Once they find the answer to those things, they have to get together to market. You cannot go independently. I don't think you can ever do it because the big stays big and the small is gonna suffer, yeah.

HY: Did you continue to raise celery beyond the war?

HK: Good question. You know my whole family knew that I had made so much money and so much of it out of this small little patch of celery patch. And I was working at the ranch, where like a young man I was not the type to break my back and make money (chuckles). I stopped farming. It was a backbreaking thing. Although my neighbor was a farmer, he loaned his tractor to me whenever I needed it to clear up the land. But (when) that was done, I did everything by hand, yeah. But it was a backbreaker.

HY: So you gave it up?

HK: I gave up. I stop altogether, yeah. And yet, at times after that I felt kind of regretful because I thought, I should have kept up a few more years after that.

HY: What kind of wages were you earning at Parker Ranch?

HK: Parker Ranch wages, you'd be surprised. The dollar value in those days was much, much, of course, how many times better than today. We all know that. We were being paid about that high, I would say the medium salary was just about fifty dollars a month. The high, next step above that was about seventy-five dollars. And the top bracket about \$100, \$125. And that's about it.

HY: I remember you saying something about everybody had to take a 10-percent cut and this was before the war.

HK: Before the war.

HY: As a result of the depression I guess. So this would have been the 10-percent cut of somewhere between . . .

HK: Yeah, when you first start on the ranch, you would get somewhere around dollar, dollar quarter [\$1.25], dollar half [\$1.50] a day. Yeah, amazing, yeah. It would go into---and then if you go through the probational period, so-called---they never say you on probation, though---but when you pass the stage then the normal standard wages would be about \$45.75 [per month] somewhere around there---\$45.00 or \$47.50. That's the standard. And if you get to the next bracket, you going to the 50, and 75, and 100 [dollars per month].

HY: What about the piggery that was established as a result of . . .

HK: Yes, when the marine camp---marines moved in, there were several mess halls in the camp, of course. Not just one big one, you know. They had their own mess hall. And Parker Ranch had the first opportunity, I think. They were offered---if Parker Ranch needed all of the scraps or garbage that comes out of the mess hall, so Parker Ranch took it. And one of our Parker Ranch employees, with a truck of course, goes take daily route and pick up all the garbage,

scraps, table scraps, you know, every day from all the barracks and feed to the pigs. We establish a big piggery. And right below the camp, mind you. Right below Richard Smart's home, in fact. Richard Smart wasn't here of course. He was a young man yet. He was away. He hardly come home. Anyway, right below the present Richard Smart's home, there was a big area. A beautiful spot (warm and dry) and the natural barrier there with (four-sided) stone wall(s) and the pigs were in there.

HY: Who bought the produce from the piggery? Or the product from the piggery, was that again supplied back to the military?

HK: Yeah, yeah. And the slaughter . . .

HY: It was sort of a cycle . . .

HK: And then yeah, yeah, right, right. And then, of course, beyond that, excess pork will be shipped to Honolulu or wherever the market. And we had---as I said, they brought in two expert professional slaughter men from Hawai'i Meat Company. They were something to watch, how they work.

HY: Did they slaughter pigs as well [as cattle]?

HK: Yeah, yeah.

HY: Oh, I see. Now, with Parker Ranch making more of a profit with the war, did it affect your wages?

HK: Well (laughs).

HY: Did they stay the same?

(Laughter)

HK: That's an interesting question. They should have, but we didn't see much of a change (laughs). But however, right after the war they really improved all our living conditions. Our houses, particularly our living quarters, our homes. Parker Ranch homes were renovated.

HY: You think that was a result of the profit they made?

HK: That's right I'm sure.

HY: So, you continued to do the water---work with the water pump job during the war?

HK: Yes, I did. And not too long after that I was transferred back to the agronomy departments.

HK: And then, and then I went very, very---I was kept quite busy with the reforestation program. Yeah, 1960 on under (manager) Dick Penhallow, but unfortunately he left us in 1960 (same year). Up to 1960, from 1950 to [19]60 he was the assistant manager, when Hartwell Carter retired he became the acting manager. But, however, he didn't finish the year, he resigned. And this is the year Richard Smart came back from the Mainland to stay. And evidently there

was something that went wrong between him and Richard Smart. He left. But prior to his resignation, he and I worked on reforestation program. Our goal was 100,000 trees per year to be planted throughout the ranch because we get so many barren areas on the ranch and we needed some trees. And Richard---Dick Penhallow was a great one for that, he loved trees. And as I mentioned yesterday, we worked together with the state department, forest department, they raise all the seedlings for us and we tried all kinds of pines. And we established some beautiful trees on the ranch. After Dick Penhallow left us, the program just dissolved---faded away. Then---so my work for the reforestation program has just been limited. At which time now, the problem came up on the ranch where 1960 to 1970 was a very bad year. Very, very---just the opposite of the war years. We were not making money. All ranchers were [not making money]. And we were at the mercy of the middleman, you know. The grower always suffers. Somebody else on down the line making the profit I suppose anyway. And all ranches were not making money including Parker Ranch. And this is the time that Signal Oil came in, 1960s and helped the ranch. They helped the ranch (temporarily). And that kept the Parker Ranch going again. And then the latter part of 1960, we had a new manager on the ranch coming in. After Mr. [Radcliffe] Greenwell, our new manager came in from Phoenix, Arizona. The consulting firm [Rubel-Lent & Associates] took the management position, which was an unusual setup. A consulting firm meets his contract after three months. And the consulting firm---they were asked to be the manager, manage the ranch, by Mr. Smart. And one of the consultants, members of the consulting firm, said it to me that it was a very difficult decision to make because the result of the study they made on Parker Ranch. The book was that [HK indicates about two inches] thick and made all kinds of recommendations. And he telling me, "If we gonna take the managementship that was offered to us by Richard Smart, we gotta eat all the words in there [the study] and live by what we have written in there which is an unusual situation we facing." So it took them quite a while to make a decision to accept that offer from Richard Smart, but however, they took that offer. And the consulting firm assigned this person, Gordon Lent as a manager. The head of the consulting firm was just the head, he has nothing to do with the ranch. But however, this man who took over the ranch as a manager, he's still a member of the consulting firm. So he's dual type of a duty. He's still obligated to the consultant firm to make further---keep their business going on. They have other areas to work on and he was involved with it. That's why [tape inaudible] managing Parker Ranch. And it was quite interesting. Yeah. At which time, this is the time 1970, the new management under this consulting firm, promoted me to be in full charge of the agronomy department. All the work that the consulting firm had done on the ranch was coordinated by. . . . I was the middleman, more like. And whenever they needed any information, and I worked together with them. And whenever they needed to look over the land, we hired a fertilizing company. They have---what do you call---fertilizing [crop dusting] the plantations. They have planes and they took us, hired them, and in fact they offered the service to take these consulting people over the air, on air, and see the entire ranch. And we went down to the airport and Richard Smart came down and he was supposed to go with 'em. And he look at me and he says, "I hope you can go instead of I go. Would you mind taking my place?" I went with 'em. I enjoyed it. We went all over the ranch. So I learned a lot through the consulting firm. Then after a while they promoted my position from the tree nursery to overall Parker Ranch agronomy work.

HY: Just to go back a little bit, when the military started leaving, how did that affect your work, then?

HK: How did that affect?

HY: After the war, the military began leaving. I don't know if they left all at once or gradually. . . .

HK: It---when the military left us, it left us sort of dumbfounded-like. In our minds we thought we were left---our minds were just blank-like. What are we gonna do now, you know? A lot of unanswered questions comes to our mind. The major one is that, where's our friends? They didn't come back. They went to Iwo Jima and the heavy casualty. We didn't know. Nobody, this all---military secret is so tight. Not even your closest friend within the barracks down here, marine, won't tell you. In fact, I don't think they (knew) where they (were) going from here. They won't tell them. And we didn't know where they went. When they left this area to go to the battleground---of course not all of them went, some of them were left back to look after the camp here---but major one, they all went to the battleground. We all know they went, but where to we don't know. But after everything settled down, we all heard about Iwo Jima. The heavy casualty that incurred over there was so heavy that naturally we began to realize that our friends probably died there in action. That's why we didn't see them. (Some of them) came back once, you know. They came back. But we don't see (a whole lot of) them. Sad. That's the feeling we had, the sadness comes in and the emptiness comes in and all (of a sudden we wonder): Is this the result of the war? And the close relationship we had with those boys sort of was a---it's a sad ending. It was sad.

HY: So you did get very close to . . .

HK: Yeah, some of them were very close, very close, yeah, yeah. And one of the---and then for the people of Waimea, for us, for particularly. . . . For we've been here for all our life, we felt that we've broadened our mind quite a bit because we got associated with people from all over the States. And some of them were college graduates, you know. And some, they were good athletes and what have you. And our minds became broader, we learned more. And a small, little sleepy town became a little more of (chuckles) a cultured people now. That change had occurred and with that, with that change now, this is what happened when I work at the ranch, we used to have an annual *lū'au*, beautiful *lū'au*. Parker Ranch *lū'au* was one of the best, in fact the best. We all say that I don't think there's another *lū'au* like that. All voluntary workers, all willing workers that come out and help for two weeks preparation, at least two weeks. And we used to enjoy the fellowship, you know. And again, I was the driver. The workers, I go and pick 'em up and drop 'em off. And then I begin to learn how to decorate, so me and my Boy Scouts were the people who decorate that *lū'au*, the hall. And I wish I had some pictures of that *lū'au*. Anyway, what happened was after the war we had couple more *lū'aus* continue on same, the same way. But now, the workers want to get paid. They learn something from the war: that whenever you do things you supposed to get paid. If not paid, well, they want something in return, you know. This is something that the war had taught our sleepy-town people (chuckles). And so what happened, the management of the ranch says, "Well, it's causing too much problem. If this is the case, well. . . ." This is one of the reasons, not only the reason. The other reason was lot of crash-in people used to come in to the *lū'au*. They heard about the *lū'au*, oh my God they crash in, you know. "Oh, I'm a friend of the Kimuras here, that's why I came. I mean his guest." They come and using an employee's name and try to crash into the party. So the management says, "Let's stop the whole thing." Then we don't have anymore *lū'au*. We miss it. I really miss the *lū'au*. But people change their attitude now. Whenever you do things now they want to get paid.

You see during the war, what the ladies have done at home, housewives made money by

doing the laundry (for the marines).

HY: Did your wife do laundry?

HK: No, I think she did sometimes. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. My mother was with me, too, you see. You know if get 25,[000], 30,000 marines, by gosh, that's a heck of a lot of laundry. Women you need. So housewives were making money, too, you know. Yeah. And these are some of the same women who used to go to the *lū'au* and work. And they know when they do those things they get some money. And they get paid for it (laughs). People begin to change. And the more you think about it how, really, humans are unusual creatures. Money can change a person's attitude, character a lot. And you often wonder which is much more important the money or. . . . you know, yeah. Here we missing the big *lū'au*, wonderful *lū'au*, because of this type of things. The people attitude changed. So we not getting the benefit of the *lū'au* anymore (chuckles).

HY: Did you feel---did you experience a drop in income then with---I guess, they wouldn't be doing laundry anymore and there wouldn't be a demand, as much, for beef and produce?

HK: Yeah, drop in income is yeah, yes, yes. That's, yeah, that's a big drop. As far as people's way of lifestyle of living you had to make adjustment after the war. That's another adjustment that you had to face. And what happened---a very interesting thing happened after the war, I think I should mention this, is that we (had) a limited area of social life because of the blackout, because of restrictive martial law that we have to abide by, as far as---we didn't have a really, totally freedom of doing things as we want to do, as far as socially, social life. After the war it took a few years after the war, though, people began to splurge and have get-togethers. And then (in) this community we formed, like any other community, like Hilo, our neighbor Honoka'a, Kohala, Kona formed a dance club, social dance club. And we called it---and then ballroom dancing came in. Every community had, and we used to visit club by club, make our rounds. And I---when you look back today, we don't have anymore of that now, but when you look back, this was a wild party. We went wild, yeah (laughs) yeah. It's more like when you release the animals, eh, they went just wild like.

(Laughter)

HY: What would you do that was so wild?

HK: Well, I tell you, it was---social life is lots of. . . . Well, liquor was flowing freely for one thing. Because you can buy any amount of liquor now, you know.

HY: The ration's over.

HK: The ration's over (laughs). And drinking is heavy. Oh my gosh. And the hours, the crazy hours we used to go. And during---we used to have dance class, of course, to learn how to dance. And the instructor used to come all the way from Hilo. And in-between, after the instruction, we had to practice what we learn. So we go to individual homes, now. "This is my turn now, you folks come to my home." Next time his turn and we go practice before the next session. Then when the instructor come, at least we had some practice. That's home social hour. Each individual home used to open their home, now. And when you open your home for practicing session, you have to have refreshment, drinks and what have you. Cost

money, yeah, yeah. And that thing went for a while but it just broke down, stopped right away. Getting nowhere. It's just spending money.

HY: Why do you think there was this big splurge after the war?

HK: I think we were just, let's say, we were just craving for something. Craving for something different, the way we were just restricted was---several years. And we want something different.

HY: The release.

HK: Yes, the release from ourselves.

HY: How soon after the war did electricity come to Waimea?

HK: Oh, almost immediately. Nineteen forty-five the war ended and we suspected we gonna have that electricity because the military had established a big, big generator here. You know, erected a big generator. Supplied the marine camp. And if . . .

HY: They had electricity?

HK: Yes, they had, yeah. And so we knew that if that generator can supply that many people. I'm sure that Waimea, our (small) community (can easily be supplied with the same generator). And then fortunately Hawaiian Electric Light Company took it over. And then gave us the electricity.

HY: They took over the same generator that the military had been using?

HK: Yes, they took over. So (folk) like us (who) were working for Parker Ranch, naturally we have Parker Ranch homes where we cannot wire our own unless we request (and) Parker Ranch will get the (electrician) and do the wiring. And then we were allowed only so many floor plugs. I think floor plugs was just limited. And then (no) wall switches—no, none. They won't give you that, because of the expense I guess.

HY: Oh, so you have to unplug?

HK: No, (to light you need to pull a cord attached to the socket).

HY: Oh, I see.

HK: You gotta pull string. Later on, individually, we put our own switch later—on the wall.

HY: Parker Ranch told you not to put in switches?

HK: Yeah, yeah. If you want to you have to pay your own type, I think.

HY: What about the water supply? Was there a demand for . . .

HK: Oh, this is one of the. . . . Yeah, I'm glad you mentioned about the water supply because

with the influx of 25,000, 30,000, 35,000 marines—where do you get that drinking, domestic water? Because we didn't—this community with 600 or 700 or 500 population, inhabitants of that small a population, we had very primitive type of water system. All surface water, no reservoir. The water comes down and they block the river and build up the dam. And this is how we were getting the water. This is—that would never supply 25,000 marines, or whatever. So when the marines—prior to the arrival of the marines, the army corps engineers, Seabees were here. They were preparing all of these things. And we didn't even suspect the marines were coming in. They were preparing and they built that reservoir. They built two reservoirs. Not the huge one. I don't know how many thousands of gallons in there. Anyway, they built that. So when the war ended, we got that. We are fortunate to have that now. (However, by 1970, even before 1970, the reservoir the marines built was not sufficient.) This community grew so rapidly now. So they built two more big, big reservoir over 50-million-gallon reservoir. So percentage of growth in Waimea on the Big Island—I just got some news the other day was that, South Kohala has the highest percentage of population growth (on this Big Island).

HY: So you've grown beyond . . .

HK: Beyond that level when the marines left us that water supply. Yeah, beyond that. Another good thing about the war that benefitted this part of the island was, they built the Saddle Road over the mountain to Hilo. That's a big plus. And our water system again, going back to the water system, we never could have gone with a vehicle into the watershed area, you know, forest where our water come from. We had to walk in, get as far as you can go with the car. No four-wheel vehicles, so you had to walk into the (watershed to reach the) water head—(source of the water intake). Parker Ranch has water rights up in the Kohala Mountain. And we had to monitor that waterline and take care of the maintenance of that waterline. We had to walk. And this was one of my Boy Scouts' duty. Every summer we go and work in there and clean up, clean the pipeline we call it. All the brushes and whatnot growing over the pipe. We had to clean all of that. Due to the war, now, when Seabees came and they made a road through that. We can go right in with the car, now. Yeah. Some things are. . . . Also, the [dirt] road right around Mauna Kea was built by the Seabees.

HY: And was the airport. . . .

HK: Oh, the airport was built—none, none, we didn't have. After the war, I'm sure it was after the war. Yes.

HY: Okay, I think we're coming close to out of tape again.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 22-97-3-93

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Hisao Kimura (HK)

August 13, 1993

Waimea, Hawai'i

BY: Holly Yamada (HY)

HY: The following is a continuation of the Hisao Kimura interview, session three, tape one.

You were telling me that your parents decided to renounce your Japanese citizenship in the [19]20s and then you had to reestablish what your birth date was. You'd mentioned the first time I interviewed you. Why did they choose for you to become a U.S. citizen then?

HK: Why did we. . . .

HY: Yeah, why did they choose? Because you said you had dual citizenship. And at some point they wanted to make a choice. Do you know why?

HK: Why did my parents decide to. . . . Yes. My father particularly felt that it's not right to belong to two countries, in case of any, you know, because we found out from our community—member of our community went back to Japan and (he was) taken in the military over there. And he felt it was not right because (he was) born here. When (this man) went back to Japan (he was taken into) the military there. And he really thought it was not right for us to belong to—citizens of two country.

HY: Was he afraid that his sons might serve in the Japanese military or. . . .

HK: No, not really. I don't think it was that way. But I think it was mainly—I think what I feel today, when I look back, it was a matter of our welfare, you know. We've got to live here, we've got to work here, get married here and stay here. And in order to be in good standing with a country, be a citizen, it's much better to be. . . . In good standing with a country you belong in.

HY: Were there a lot of members of the community—Japanese community—that were doing that then?

HK: I wouldn't say a lot. I really don't know how many at that time did this, but I do know my father was sort of criticized for doing this.

HY: Oh, he was?

HK: Among his fellow---the friends from Japan---the immigrants, you know. "Why did he do that?" It was questioned. But later, I found out, we felt really proud that my father did it. We were so happy. We didn't have nothing to worry.

HY: What about the---you said your brothers also went through this process of reestablishing their birth date. What about your sisters?

HK: Sisters, too. Yeah.

HY: Sisters, too?

HK: Yes. That's right. Mm hmm. At that time, of course, like anything else, you got to get identification so they took our pictures and so forth. Black and white pictures. Photographs, rather.

HY: Was that common to not establish the exact birth date that, you know, you mentioned that your brother lost six months.

HK: I think it is common. Yes. And I did question my parents: How did they determine my birthday? They said, well, it was very difficult when there was no report today in Japanese Consulate in Honolulu. No report there. None, of course, in our local [territorial] board of health or wherever they receive these records. None there. So they had to almost like compromise with the witnesses they had to acquire. And the witnesses say, "I think it was such-and-such day."

(Laughter)

HK: And so they just made a compromise of the date. That's the way I looked at it. (Laughs)

HY: They asked your neighbors?

HK: Yeah, close friends. Well, I went to school with my mother's birthday---my mother gave my [actual] birthday when I went to school. She knew what my age. So that birthday I carried right through my school. So I was sort of confused when people asked me, "What's your age?" Always, which age am I going to give? (Laughs) But legally now, I have to go by that, yeah?

HY: I want to go up to wartime again. One of the things I wanted to ask you about was the sports activity during the war. Did you participate in sports with the military guys that were here? I understand that was one of the more popular recreation . . .

HK: Yes. We had hardly any recreation aside from sports during the war when the marines were here. Prior to the arrival of the marines here---prior to the opening of the war---I loved coaching. I used to coach baseball and basketball. No football out here. And when the war broke out, I still had a basketball team. So we did have some marines play in the team. They were college students, some of them. They were wonderful players. And I don't know how they got out from their duty, but they came out to the gym and practiced with the boys.

HY: Did you actually play games?

HK: I [personally] played baseball only. Basketball, no.

HY: But did you [as a coach] have teams that would actually play games?

HK: Yes. Yes. We had our local home league, so-called.

HY: What was it called? Did it have a name?

HK: Waimea Home League. Yeah. We had basketball home league. Junior and senior league, yeah? But juniors were very rare. You never find junior league and senior league [both at the same time], you know. And baseball, the same thing. You get senior league. And then gradually, after the war, we had a junior league organized.

HY: What age group are these players of senior league?

HK: Baseball?

HY: Any . . .

HK: Basketball was---I would say my team was mostly juniors from twelve to fifteen years, somewhere in that area, and they played with seniors because I got all the junior boys in my team. And the population was so small at that time you can't get two junior teams over here. So they used to play with the senior leagues, although they did have a chance to play with a Kohala High School boys. Had a home-and-home game with the Kohala High School reserves.

HY: So this league, how big was it? And you played teams all in this area?

HK: Uh, yeah. We had our own league here. Waimea. And then the CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] boys, by the way, came in, too. And we had a home league. And after the home league is over, we selected an all-star team, so-called, and go around the island. We did that just once, though. We hired a bus and went around the island.

HY: Did that happen during wartime, too?

HK: That was right after the war.

HY: So, did the military guys that participated in these leagues, would they actually play games with you folks? They were team members?

HK: They were in my team, yes. Just a handful, though. Not many players, but they were good. They were good players.

HY: Did people in the community come out and watch the games?

HK: Oh, yes. You see, we charged admission, of course (HY laughs). We charged admission and with that money we collected from [them], at the end of the season we select the all-star team. Then that money we acquired from the home league, we used it to go around the island. That's what we did.

HY: Oh, I see. And was this supported by Parker Ranch?

HK: Basketball, no. It was---baseball, yes. Parker Ranch was very supportive. Baseball was their main sport. In fact, if you're a boy, you know, (it is a natural thing to do). You got to play because everybody else is playing. You can't stay on the sideline to watch. So everyone---practically everyone---once in their lifetime, they may have. I'm sure they played baseball. Of course, we were able to see the major leaguers, professional baseball players, come out here. They played out here for the marines.

HY: Do you remember some of the teams that came?

HK: I think was [Joe] DiMaggio and Phil Rizzuto, shortstop. Some famous players were out here.

HY: And was that because the military were here that they came?

HK: Yes. More like for the USO [United Service Organizations], recreational thing. And they had boxing---boxing arena set up in the park.

HY: Did people from Waimea---were they involved in boxing?

HK: Some of our local boys went into it. Yeah, yeah.

HY: So that was one of the main recreational activities?

HK: Yes, that's about it as far as recreation during the war. Lot of drinking, though. Drinking was one of the recreation those days.

HY: Even with the rationing?

HK: Yes.

HY: Somehow you managed . . .

HK: Somehow we managed because, you know, unusual because each person has a ration ticket, and then we acquired those stubs even for our wives so we can get extra quart of whiskey or whatever we're going to buy (laughs). Everybody has some, and then we share sometime.

HY: I know the I. Oda Store served a central part of business activity in Waimea.

HK: Yes.

HY: How were other businesses impacted by the war? Did they also flourish during that time that you're aware of?

HK: Lot of business like . . .

HY: Because you had told me that Parker Ranch did well. Everybody seemed to be making money during this time. Was that true for the businesses?

HK: I'm sure it was because. . . . You mean the general grocery store?

HY: Yeah . . .

HK: Yes, grocery stores were. Unusually, they were doing well because of the marines used to get into it. Especially when they first arrived, they just went into the store and bought their. . . . They came with just one undershirt like, you know? No other clothes. Direct from the battlefield. And they went to the store and bought whole lot of things—personal things.

HY: Did they stay in business then after the war or were there . . .

HK: Yes. They continued to be in the grocery business. We had one major one. Formerly it was Parker Ranch Store. Then Hayashi—Ken Hayashi—took over the store. And that Hayashi Store is still here in Waimea. Still operating. That first name I know, Kenichi Hayashi. Ken Hayashi.

HY: Okay, then after you talked about your reforestation program, up through the seventies, yeah? You were involved in that? And . . .

HK: Reforestation program, yes. We continued on from 1951, somewhere around there. We'd done some extensive tree planting at our Parker Ranch Pu'u'ōpelu Nursery. And most of the trees were planted—(field planting) began in 1960 and on to, I would say, almost up to [19]70.

HY: At that point, did you retire then?

HK: I retired in 1978.

HY: Nineteen seventy-eight. What did you do after the reforestation . . .

HK: After the reforestation ended?

HY: Uh huh.

HK: Well, the tree nursery, so-called, Pu'u'ōpelu Nursery, became just a, more like an ornamental plant nursery—ornamental type. And the trees were rarely kept since 1970. Then gradually the ornamental plants were mainly planted for the purpose of landscaping the community. The community was Parker Ranch, of course, and Parker Ranch office area, shopping center areas, were all of the areas that we landscaped. And whatever trees we had leftover from the. . . . We had over 100,000 trees on hand. So what are we going to do with it, you know? So we used some of those trees for landscape within the parking area of the shopping center and elsewhere. And we gave to the—we shared quite a number of trees to the state tree nursery [Forestry & Wildlife Division Tree Nursery] which just began to, they just began to start. . . . The state nursery became—came into Waimea and established about 1960. . . . About '64. And that's a centralized state tree nursery, you know, for the State of Hawai'i. We have it in Waimea now. I gave a whole lot of trees to them because they needed some trees to ship out to the various islands, eh? Outside islands.

HY: And then did you retire in '78?

HK: I retired in November '78. My actual retirement should be on a birthday—January 1979. But I had some accumulated vacation so I took a . . .

HY: And what have your activities been since you've retired?

HK: That was unusual because, well, I knew I was going to retire so I tried to think of what I'm going to do. And I knew I can't be loafing around so I got in politics. I didn't get in. Then . . .

HY: What did you run for?

HK: [County of Hawai'i] County council. County. Then thereafter—oh, Kawamata Farms [Inc.]. My wife was a part-time worker at Kawamata Farms and gradually she became a full time. And Kawamata rose farm was just beginning to get established. And Mr. [Na'oi] Kawamata asked me, since my wife's down there, "You got to come down also and help out the farm." So I was with the farm for about five years. Yeah. Rose farm.

HY: Was this as an employee?

HK: As an employee. Yes.

HY: So, you didn't really retire? You kept working?

HK: No. Not really. I didn't retire. Although the farm work was put [such that] anytime you need to [work you may]. It's not a compulsory eight-hour work. I just go down there. Whatever I can help I used to help, yeah?

HY: Okay. I wanted to ask you a little bit about what's happening with Parker Ranch now. Since Richard Smart has passed away [1992], what do you see for the future of Parker Ranch?

HK: Since Richard Smart passed away, it's a public record now that it's under the trusteeship. It's under trust. And the trustees are managing the ranch and proceeds of the income goes to five different organizations—charitable organizations. And the future of this ranch seems to be. . . . I'm sure it's in the will as far as the records show that—Richard Smart did mention several times when I was working—that it is my [Richard Smart's] mother's wish that I [Richard Smart] carry on this cattle ranch. People have accused him, he says, misquoted him in the newspaper that he going to sell. Rumors went around at that time. He said he will never sell. And that's his mother's wish. [Richard Smart's mother is Annie Thelma Parker Smart.]

The future of the ranch is like any other business, especially when you handle livestock, it fluctuates. Sometimes it goes up and down. We did have some bad years during that forty-six years I worked on the ranch. We had some bad years. And in that---it's the economic trend of the country. It goes down and sometimes, you know. In the 1960s, from beginning 1950, late fifties, into the sixties, cattle ranch was really, really struggling. And they had a hard time and . . .

HY: Do you think that was because of management problems or . . .

HK: I don't think it was a management problem. It was a matter of. . . . Well, partly it's a management's problem perhaps, but as far as the beef price is concerned we have no control in our State of Hawai'i. We go according to the cattle price in the Mainland. Whatever the cattle price there we add up another so-many percent over that to carry on our cattle price locally here. So it all depends on the national trend of cattle prices—goes up and down. And if it's good up there, we're going to make it. It's bad up there, we're going to get a bad year. And we did have bad years. But at the present time with the trustees, my biggest concern, though, cattle does not just by accident gain weight without caring for the feed. On the present situation, they disbanded or dissolved the agronomy department where I was heading—the agronomy department. I'm so disappointed, and I think many of the other ranchers can see it where they are not concerned about weight control [of the cattle]. Weeds are overtaking the land so rapidly and yet productivity of the land drops. Oh, percentage is way down now. And I don't know how they're determining how many pounds of beef they can get per acre on the land they got now. They can always estimate by saying that Parker Ranch is the largest ranch—single-owned ranch—in the nation. Over 200-and-some-odd-thousand acres. But acres doesn't mean—numbers doesn't mean much here if your land is not. . . . If it doesn't nurture your land, if it doesn't take care of your land, your production per acre will drop because you are actually producing your red meat out of your forage that you're feeding the animal. If your feed is not, you know, the nutritive value of your feed drops, lack of feed means lack of live animals, and the weight will drop also. So they are not concerned about weed. I've noticed today, when I go out and just look over the pastures, the pastures are overgrazed, abused. The more you overgraze the land, the weeds will rapidly take over the land. Weeds love that. Cattle doesn't touch the weeds. So if you heavily graze the land, you're not going to get your good grasses left. The bad grasses will be remaining and they'll be. . . . You're giving them the free hand to take over the land.

HY: Why do you think that's happening?

HK: Well, it's a matter of. . . . Why—to me, I feel that they are not trying to say, why improve the land? Because we can't improve the land because several factors come in the picture here: We cannot improve the land because lack of rainfall. We cannot improve the land because the highly aggressive grasses is taking over the land so rapidly. No matter what we plant it's going to be overtaken by the strong grass, so why spend all that time? It's a wasteful thing they think, see? But we do have an enemy in the pastures. Aggressive grass, we call it. That is really something that we have never expected. I knew it was going to happen. We call the grass Kikuyu grass, and it's very aggressive. Won't give any other grass a chance to grow. It would just overtake the land. Not only the grass. Even the other desirable bushes, shrubs. They are just dying. Yeah. Very aggressive. People don't realize how bad that grass is. This concerns Hawai'i climate—climatic condition of Hawai'i is very, very suitable for this grass. Just right. Because you go to Florida, it won't grow. I was in Florida. And they have a mini-experiment station in the grass field. I saw their strip of Kikuyu grass. They trying to grow but it won't behave like another grass. Fortunately, though, if Florida were taken over by Kikuyu, it'll be just Kikuyu grass. I can't see why Florida cannot grow, because it's so humid out there. Very humid. And yet we call another imported grass from Africa. It's pangola grass. Pangola. Yeah. This was—pangola grass came in, was introduced to the island after the Kikuyu grass. And they—we were told the pangola will be able to compete with the Kikuyu grass. Cannot. Simply cannot.

HY: Did they bring it in for that purpose? So it would compete with the Kikuyu grass?

HK: No, not exactly. It was a good forage cattle feed because it's high fiber. Kikuyu grass has no fiber. It's just like eating cucumber. Just water. High moisture. Pounds gained per day on the animal is very, very low. Yeah. Not even a half a pound maybe.

HY: Do you have any sense of how the community is reacting to this arrangement with the trusteeship?

HK: One of the biggest thing---I think everybody will agree with me among the retirees and people living other than retirees, you know. Not [people who haven't] been living in Waimea long enough. They can notice that Parker Ranch is like any other firm now. You know what I mean? They're strictly running a business. The reason why I say that is because Parker Ranch used to be a ranch that took care of the people. Like a big family. It's a family type of an atmosphere.

HY: Paternal.

HK: Yeah. And they really---whatever they do, it was a family thing. Today they've done away with that. Done away completely, so the quicker the old-timers leave the ranch, the quicker they're going to find the ranch like any other company---business company, business that they're running. They would not---they're not involved in a very large sense as a community-minded operated business. They're altogether by themselves. Very business-like way because this all concerns efficiency of whatever profit they can make. Money is the key to the whole thing, but they forget there are people involved. We miss that. We miss that very much.

HY: Do they still provide housing for their employees?

HK: They do.

HY: So as far as the trusteeship, is that a . . . How do you feel about that? Do you think that was a good choice or . . .

HK: Well, the trustees feel---I think the trustees are doing whatever they can to run the ranch for profit. Like any other business they've got to make money, and their sole purpose is to make money. And other than that, I can't see what they are doing. They're doing their job, as far as, you know. But we miss the closeness. . . .

HY: And is that true for some of the current or younger employees?

HK: Oh, they're working there. That, I don't know because the new employees they are hiring today have never sensed what we went through. They never have seen the Parker Ranch we knew. They're working like any other job, acquired a job somewhere else. Same thing. They just go in. They don't know what transpired in the past. And the old-timers I spoke to, some of them they say they're just waiting to retire because they feel that big change.

HY: So is there just a percent of the profits that are going to these charitable organizations?

HK: Yes. Yeah. It's about, goes about, I think it was, four times sixteen is what?

HY: Sixty-four.

HK: Sixty-four, yeah? Anyway, medical center [Lucy Henriques Medical Center] has 16 percent, and another Hawai'i hospital [North Hawai'i Hospital] will have about 16 percent, and Parker School and HP [Hawai'i Preparatory Academy] will have 16 percent, I believe it was [HK clarifies percentages below]. And the other fifth one will be the remaining, what? Twelve percent? No. Sixty-four. . . .

HY: Thirty-six percent?

HK: Thirty-six? No. Well, it's over 16 percent. I'm sorry. I think it's over. Um, I could get a figure right there. This is interesting.

(Laughter)

HK: Wait, I have. . . . You may have—you have to stop that [tape recorder]. (HK looks through papers.)

Yup. There. (Pause) Yeah, the schools receive 16 percent. And there are two schools. Parker School and Hawai'i Preparatory School [Academy] will each receive 16 percent. The medical facilities, which is the present medical, Lucy Henriques Medical Center, will receive 24 percent, and the North Hawai'i Hospital that is coming up will receive the other 24 percent. Oh, wait a minute. Oh, yes, and the community foundation, they call it, Hawai'i Community Foundation will receive 20 percent. That's this. You see, according to these statements made by trustee, Warren [J.] Gunderson, the 100 percent of the net proceeds must be distributed. Must go out on the percentage basis. Yeah. Be very interesting to find out as time goes on.

They have a very good marketing system right now, which we thought was. . . . Never been taught before. We used to raise the cattle—market animal is what I'm talking about—in the feedlot in Honolulu, Hawai'i Meat Company, and which has dissolved now. But where do you ship your animals now? So instead of bringing in the feed from the Mainland to feed our market animals, all on grain now. You had to finish on grain, these market animals, to compete with Mainland beef coming in. The quality must be comparable to the Mainland beef. So you had to feed all by grain grown in the Mainland. And the cost of feed is so high in that sense. So today they are moving the animal to the feed in the Mainland. They're shipping the live animals to the feed where it is grown in the Mainland, and they're getting a much higher, I think higher percentage of net profit.

HY: And they've done that just since the Hawai'i Meat Company closed up?

HK: That's right. Yes.

HY: I see.

HK: Just before the Hawai'i Meat Company had to close up. They knew it was coming so they did that. They shipped the animals to Canada first on a trial basis. Canada takes about almost twelve days they said, you know, on the transportation from here to Canada. Then they had an outlet in the Mainland, also. Two ways.

HY: Last time I talked to you, you mentioned something about the. . . . This was during the

dispute about the will of Richard Smart and how you had records of—a lot of A. W. Carter's records.

HK: Oh, yeah, yeah. A. W. Carter's records, I accidentally found. Was in that filing cabinet that I acquired (from) the ranch. And when I got it they told me to pick it up in the warehouse. When I got it I can't open it. It's all locked, you know. So I called the business manager at the Parker Ranch office.

HY: This is about what year then?

HK: Shee, this was, I believe, this was late fifties. In the late. . . . Yeah.

HY: Okay.

HK: And I called the ranch business manager and he says, "Well, do like what we did. We lost the keys so we just went to our mechanic's shop and told one of the mechanics to come and pry 'em open. Just pry 'em open," he says. "Lost the keys."

So I did that. When I opened it, my gosh, all these daily diary was there of Mr. A. W. Carter written by his secretary, [Lucille] Brundage. Mrs. Brundage. And, by gosh, this is something. I read a portion of it. So many separate diaries there. What was most interesting thing I just read it, one of them was my father-in-law's [John Kawānanakoa Lindsey's] story about how he brought the bull over the mountain from Hilo. An imported bull, you know. A. W. was a great one to bring in high-priced animal from the Mainland to improve his herd over here. The other one was my mother was stranded in Honolulu during the war and how my sister used to write letter to Mr. Carter, asking about my mother's condition and when she can come back because there was a martial law in Hawai'i. Nobody can move. More so the aliens cannot move, you know. They wouldn't allow it. So she was down with Mr. Carter's home, down Honolulu for quite a while. And that was in the diary. Yeah, it was in the diary. But I believe there were whole lot of records in there. So when Parker Ranch was a, had a. . . . Someone [the Purdy family of Waimea] filed a suit against Parker Ranch in acquiring the land, I felt that, gee, this record I have, the diary must help Parker Ranch—whole a lot of things that you seen there, valuable information must be in there to help the ranch, and nobody knows about it. And it gives me a guilty conscience to keep it. It was up in this attic in my house here, and it's no use there. So I went to Ralph Dobbins, our trustee at that time [1978–1986], and Ted Riecker [Frederick Riecker], the other trustee. I told them, "I have these records and I'm going to bring it to you folks." And in a couple of years afterwards, Ted Riecker says, "Thank you very much. That was one of the most important material that we received."

And I cannot really verify what happened to the other records. They must have had a lot of other records, too. Where did they go, you know? They must have dump them in a. . . . Okay, this is a very interesting story. I just heard it recently. Richard Smart's secretary, myself, we've been called by the Hawai'i Prep senior class teacher, Mr. [Gordon] Bryson. Bryson is a school coach of Hawai'i Preparatory school [Academy]. His senior class is doing wonderful research work, and they asked Kiyomi, myself, even my brother, Yutaka, give some of the old stories about Waimea and Parker Ranch. They got a whole bunch of records in the classroom—Parker Ranch records. The story I hear is that they [Parker Ranch] were dumping these things—all these books and whatever—down in the dump pile, and when one

of the Hawai'i Prep teachers saw that, he said, "Can't we have that? Must be some valuable things in there."

So the ranch---I don't know who they spoke to. "Help yourself."

So Bryson got quite a bit of number of books in there. So he tells me and Kiyomi, "Anytime you folks want any information, help yourself."

I don't know what kind of information is in there. Some of them are just daily diary. But I do know that my records in the agronomy department. . . . I went back to the ranch office once and I can't find nothing. Where did it go? Where did they take it? I was surprised. It involves lot of work. Years of work have gone somewhere. I don't know where it went.

Going back to the condition of the ranch today is, you know, like anything else, we've got to be the one to take care of the land. Nobody else can do it. The stewardship of the land is so important for the future generation to come. And once you neglect, once you fall back to catch up to what it was before, it's going to be hard.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

HK: What happened here is on the ranch, Parker Ranch had the most, I would say, number of varieties of wild fowls. Birds, all kinds of birds—pheasants and quails and, oh, wild turkeys and so forth. These things are diminishing now because of. . . . The stewardship of the land have been neglected. There's no feed for them. So what they're doing now, they're hiring people to raise those birds to release. So when the hunting season comes, you have birds to shoot at. (Laughs) How awkward it is. Our time, we don't have to raise. Birds will just—you got so much birds out there, you know.

HY: Did you hunt for food, then? Or mostly for sport?

HK: Well, mostly for sport and yet, you can't say 100 percent for sport. We used to save the meat. We used the meat and smoked it—mainly for smoking. And use the feathers for feather leis.

HY: When did the population of birds start diminishing?

HK: When they commercialized it. I don't know how. . . . This is one of the downfall: Which comes first, money or your sports? They commercialized the bird hunting to the extent where only the rich can hunt, that type of thing. So naturally, people love—those hunters who love hunting they come in to hunt during the season and they just practically wipe out the birds.

HY: About what year did they start commercializing?

HK: They just started recently. My retirement in 1978. . . . It may have started in the [19]80s. Immediately after that, in the eighties, somewhere in the eighties. In a few years time, boy,

hunting is hunting. That's real hunting. In other words, (HY laughs) you must hunt for it, you know (laughs). During our time, when I was working on the ranch (HK drops microphone).

HY: Okay.

HK: Yeah, when I (chuckles) was working on the ranch hunting was more like, really a recreation. Go out there and you can almost say how many birds I'm going to get today. So many birds.

HY: What kind of birds?

HK: The most challenging bird to hunt is pheasant. They're very, very---hunters, they like [to hunt pheasant] because they gave your hunting dog a bad time. They're tricky birds. And even to shoot is a very tricky bird---pheasants. And then they have a long flight. Their flight is beautiful. And we get a quail. Quail is not too much of a sport because their flight is so short. And you just raise your gun, it's gone already, like that, you know. And especially in the bushes, it's very dangerous bird to shoot because they don't fly high. And there's another bird that's imported, the partridge. There are several varieties of partridge. They have the erckel. They have the francolin. Francolin is a---they call a black francolin and a brown one. Two varieties, two species of francolins. Erckel is somewhat, yeah, it's a newly introduced bird. And turkeys are, my gosh. Unusually, turkeys are increasing, in spite of all the hunters, because turkeys feed on something different than the pheasants or other fowls. Their source of food is different from the pheasants. Turkeys can live on the foliage whereas the birds live on seeds mostly. So you don't have any seed producing grasses. Kikuyu have no seed, you know. Kikuyu grass has seed but it's hidden. Nobody can find it. It's hidden in the stem. There's no---the pollen comes out. But the seed is embedded in the stem. So birds or whatever, they cannot in there, get to the seed.

HY: Did you folks still---was there hunting going on during wartime or I assume . . .

HK: No, wartime not allowed, wasn't allowed. Oh, that. Oh, my gosh, that was a bird farm. Parker Ranch land was just a bird farm. Parker Ranch land, I think I mentioned before, where the marines must have come, some of them come from the midwestern states, from Kansas and Missouri, and all those beautiful pastures. Kentucky bluegrass is plentiful out there, and wild oats and fescue grasses---lots of in the middle western states. Parker Ranch had them all. Beautiful grass. During the early spring months, after the winter rain, you see the pastures are just like a grainfield. The wind blowing the seed head of the grass. It's waving with the wind. It's just like good grainfield. And the marines used to tell us, "You folks must have plowed this and planted."

I said, "We didn't plow. Just broadcast the seed."

They were just surprised that they can see these things, what they had back home. That's the type of grass we had. Now, all of these we called them the grain grass. The seeds are just like grain. The wild oats are similar to the oats---bran that we eat. It's only the wild grass, but the seed is almost similar. And the fescue grass seeds, the same. Even the Kentucky bluegrass, the seeds are. . . . Aw, the birds love it. And they get really fat. Those grasses are gone. Practically gone. Very---oh yeah, in the early spring months, when the Kikuyu---right at this time, the pastures are just dried up. This is a very unusual year. The weather never

been cooperating this year. Lack of rainfall. The Kikuyu grass are all brown, and right down to the grass, but they are not dead. Upon the first rainfall they come back. But upon the first rainfall, some of the original grass do survive. They come back because the seeds are still in the ground. They'll come back. But not for long because you release the cattle, those are the grass that the cattle will go for it, the first thing.

HY: So, in the early days, then, did---these grasses were plentiful---these other grasses, other than Kikuyu---and this would, the seeds would, attract the birds?

HK: Oh, yes, yes, yes.

HY: So was the military allowed to hunt these birds or . . .

HK: No. They didn't hunt either. Military people didn't hunt at all.

HY: So they just stopped then?

HK: Stopped then. Right. That's one of the reasons why I believe the birds increased a lot. We even---but prior to that, before even the war, before the marines moved in, we had a lot of birds. Lots of birds. And, of course, turkey have never been allowed to shoot on Parker Ranch land.

HY: Why is that?

HK: Parker Ranch used to ship those turkeys to Honolulu for market. I think you never seen this. The last shipment, I think was the last one shipped to Honolulu, some of the turkeys accidentally flew out of the cage. In town, I don't know what street is it. Came out in the newspaper.

HY: In Honolulu?

HK: Yeah. And the turkeys are running wild in Honolulu.

(Laughter)

HY: They don't do that [ship to Honolulu] anymore?

HK: No, not anymore. What they did was trap the turkey prior to Thanksgiving. That's the only time they ship, during the Thanksgiving. They trap those wild turkeys and feed [them] corn. Make them fat before they ship to Honolulu. That's the reason why they never allowed us. If you, as a Parker Ranch employee, if you ever shoot a turkey, that's just like committing a crime. You were fired right on the spot. You're out of the ranch. (Laughs)

HY: Did they have the employees go out and catch the wild turkeys?

HK: Yes.

HY: So these were wild turkeys they would keep confined and then ripen for Thanksgiving.

HK: So until today, we say this must be the old Parker Ranch wild turkeys because we get two

varieties of turkey out there now today. The other one the state brought in, some wild turkeys for hunting purpose.

HY: Then was there a big hunting activity then after the war?

HK: Yes, we had a statewide final they called the Final Field Trial Championship—field trial bird hunting—which is totally different from bird hunting on foot. You go on horseback because bird dogs are trained for field trial. They go by the miles, you know. And beautiful, the way they work. They go out, straight out to the field, and they start roaming out this way. And you, the dog owner, got to get on horseback and follow. And the judges all—we all get on the horseback and follow this dog. And the birds are not planted, mind you. It's out in the regular, you know, at random. You just select one pasture. There are birds in there. That's why they all used to come to Parker Ranch to get a field trial championship.

HY: Did that start after the war?

HK: Yeah. After the war.

HY: And continued . . .

HK: They continued for a while and then they stopped. I don't know what happened. Lack of interest or whatever.

HY: Is there anything else you'd like to add, looking back over the . . .

HK: Over the years? (Laughs)

HY: Yeah.

HK: Well, I tell you. I think anyone of the ranch employees [would say]—whoever worked long enough on the ranch—it's sad that we lost Richard Smart.

HY: Do you feel that way?

HK: Yeah. He had his up and downs and you feel sorry for him many times but, in spite of that, amazingly, he had a Hawaiian love in him. He carried on his mother's wish, and he took care of the ranch employees and the community as a whole. And you can see when he passed away, the will states it all goes back to the community. And this Waimea community is, I think, the most fortunate community in the State of Hawai'i. Look at the two schools and hospital. We're all going to benefit by that. But looking back, all the good times we had and all the hard times—hard work, it was hard work—but I think we were treated fairly.

I'm proud to say that Parker Ranch never had a bargaining union move in, in spite of. . . . They tried to come into Parker Ranch. They were not successful with it, of course, because we were treated just as good as any other union member. They took care of us, although our wages were small. But they took care of our education, health benefits, and all that. Some of these things mean more than money—how they took care of you. Those are the things you'll miss most. I think that's—lot of times I think that money has some evils. Too much money-conscious people have different attitude of life.

HY: So, you think Richard Smart would not be happy about what is happening?

HK: Well, I think he knows he left the ranch in a good hands, I'm sure. The only thing is that, like I said, animals need something to eat. And if you don't provide a food, well, what are you going to get left? Acres and acres today, the land production of---the value of the land has dropped. In a sense, it's not the fault of the present managership, which is the trustees. It's not their fault because these grasses were introduced way before they came on the ranch. And we knew the danger of this grass. That's why I mentioned, I think, earlier I almost got fired because I argued too much. I argued and argued. I wasn't happy with that Kikuyu grass. And I knew what was going to happen. And it sure did. And today they even trying to plant some grain to the birds, to increase the population of the birds. I would plant those things for the cattle instead of birds. They want to increase the population of birds. They trying to plant these things. But cannot. The Kikuyu would choke it up. Because when you plant these seeds they have to water the field. When they water the---whatever field that's small and fenced in type of thing, so the cattle won't go in and eat it---it's for the birds only. But when you start watering, you had to water in order to get the seed germinated, what happens is the Kikuyu overtake 'em. You have a, really a, something to---it's just like a cancer. You can't solve the problem.

HY: Maybe I should ask you about the next generation of Parker Ranch employees of your time and their children. Do they---are there a lot of them that stay here and work or do they tend to leave?

HK: Ranching life is---very selective type of people work on the ranch. Some of our old-time Parker Ranch families, their children never stays on the ranch. They acquire jobs elsewhere because of the education. And once they acquire certain level of education, they wouldn't go back as a cowboy riding a horse. They wouldn't unless you were brought up on a horse throughout. It remains in you. But not many ranch family's children or boys will stay on the ranch. At one time it's almost 100 percent, more or less, your children all went out to work because better pay, more attractive out there than on the ranch.

HY: Do they hire women? No?

HK: Women in the office, mainly. Yeah, yeah. And, of course---oh, another area that Parker Ranch has extended their income is property---leasing out the property for business use. So they have rental units---a number of rental units today. And they have a special property manager to handle that. We call it non-cattle income. But I believe still cattle income is the greatest of all. Those---and then they have, right now they're working on the 2020 Plan they call it---big urbanized development coming up on the Parker Ranch land.

And they just started a week ago---not even a week ago---drilling for water. The development plan, the county planning commissioners have approved it upon condition---two condition---is that the developer, which is Parker Ranch, must find that water first. So they start digging well. And another one is a bypass road. They're going to have a bypass road in Waimea because our present road is not suitable for the traffic that we have. They have to get another bypass.

HY: You mean another one besides the Kawaihae Road?

HK: Yeah.

HY: Oh, I see.

HK: Yeah. It will be connecting to the Kawaihae Road out in the outskirts. But there is---well, several things to be ironed out because they're going through private-owned land and more so through the Hawaiian homesteaders' land. Some of them are very unhappy. They're trying to negotiate with them. I don't know how they can solve this problem. We must have a bypass. We don't have any escape road out of Waimea if anything should happen. So now the Waimea Main Street-design committee is working on that. Kind of interesting, though.

HY: Okay. Anything else?

HK: Anything else?

(Laughter)

HK: It is sad. Going back to before and today's situation on the ranch, it is sad. It's sad in a sense where all what we did in the past, work on the early years, on the ranch, was solely because. . . . We never see Richard Smart. He was away, New York or wherever he was. He was a young boy. He was only one year younger than I am. But all what we knew while working on the ranch was to benefit Richard Smart. And A. W. Carter made sure that we got to make this ranch, the success of the ranch going to benefit Richard Smart. And Richard Smart name was always constantly in our ranch employee's mind. And we used to have annually a big *lū'au* and the *lū'au* was something else, really something that. . . . It's hard to forget. That was wonderful thing, I think (chuckles). So today, when you think about it, those things, there's no object in front of you while you're working on the ranch. You're just working. I suppose these boys are just working because they need to make a living. But those days we were working because of somebody else—to benefit somebody else—and we were proud to be a part of the, almost a family, to improve the ranch for Richard Smart. And we're happy that Richard Smart really left his will that way. Yeah. Wonderful. I think people were kind of surprised. And, of course, the two sons are trying to sue, according to this write-up. [The sons have contested their father's will, and Gillard Smart brought a lawsuit against trustees Warren Gunderson, Richard Hendrick and Melvin Hewitt.]

HY: This is Tony [Anthony Smart]?

HK: Yeah, Tony and Gill [Gillard Smart]. More so Gill. Tony is not that, he's more. . . . He's, well, he's well established already. Gill is having financial problems. The appreciation of---those days, the work was something. When we work we knew what we were, what do you call? We were more dedicated to our work. The dedication to our work was such that I don't think you can describe it. When you work for Parker Ranch you're working for some specific purpose. Today, they're working just for work, and if they can get by by loafing around, I think they would get by. But there's no value to the work anymore, I think. There's no reward. And I like to see that. . . . Like we say, once you retire from Parker Ranch, you're just like an animal been turned out in the pasture and forgotten. That's the feeling we got.

HY: That's how you felt?

HK: Yeah, that's the way I felt because Richard Smart is not there, too, but the old managers are not here, right? A.W. was something else. He was very strict but he had a very loving, kind heart. I don't think that will ever come back. That's it. I don't think so.

HY: Different era.

HK: Different. And those days, when you say you work for Parker Ranch, you feel proud, you know. I don't know today (laughs). Like, well, Gordon Lent was one of the late managers that came in. He was from Jack Rubel & Associate [Rubel-Lent & Associates] from Arizona as consulting firm, and he became. . . . And the consulting firm after three months compiling all the reports of Parker Ranch and how Parker Ranch can operate successfully, a book like that, that thick [HK indicates about two inches] they made, and then Richard Smart asked that consultant firm, "I need a manager on the ranch and I'm having difficult time. How about you folks take over the ranch?" And Gordon Lent personally told me, "You know, if I take that job, if we take that job we got to swallow every word that's in there. And we're still debating whether we should accept this offer or not." Took him quite a while. He finally accepted.

Anyway, Gordon Lent and I conducted a workshop for the American Cattlemen Association. Had a big convention in San Francisco. And after that they wanted to come and see Parker Ranch. And somehow they want Parker Ranch to do something so they can charge their trip over as a business expense. So we say, well, Gordon Lent asked, "Do you think we can handle a small workshop for them so they can come over?" Oh, a whole bunch of them came over. We had them by the Parker—we called 'em Barbara Hall, Parker School Hall [currently called The Parker School, the building was originally named Barbara Hall]. And we had Honoka'a Club manager come out. We didn't have Parker Ranch restaurant at that time. Honoka'a Club manager came out and took care all the food—outdoor barbecue. All western-style type of barbecue. And we conducted a workshop, what we are doing on the ranch. And one lady from Texas came up to me and says, "What college did you go to?"

I said, "College of Parker Ranch."

(Laughter)

HK: Then, I told her, "How did you folks ever find out about Parker Ranch? Why did you folks want to come over, insist that you folks want to come?"

Do you know what she said? "Every since I was a young girl, I was brought up on a ranch, you see? We heard about Parker Ranch. We heard about Parker Ranch years ago. And some day I might, you know, wish was to see Parker Ranch."

So Parker Ranch was pretty well known everywhere. Then we started—Gordon Lent and I, we started that visitor center [Parker Ranch Visitor Center]. We still have it. But not as much as—it's not doing that well now. Visitor center goes with the tourist industry, you see? When tourist industry drops, well, our visitor center drops, too. Yeah.

Tough life. Ranch is a tough life. I've seen days when we didn't have a forty-hour week. No such thing as forty-hour week. And we would have to work six days a week. Then came down to five days a week and forty hours a week.

But the war days was quite interesting because of the restrictive type of living. One of the restriction was blackout. The houses were [under] blackout. You can't travel nighttime and all that. And I used to travel nighttime because my job called for it. So all of our Parker Ranch cars had the headlights were blacked out, and small little opening. You can see right in front of you. But once you get in the pasture, you know your way in and out, you see? No problem. On the highway it's kind of dangerous because military people. All had MPs all over the place. They'll stop you. Question you. . . .

HY: Okay.

HK: Okay.

HY: Thank you so much.

END OF INTERVIEW

AN ERA OF CHANGE

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